

Jordan Times

جوردان تاثير يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية "الراي"

LONDON (AP) — Pressure mounted on European governments Tuesday to pull their troops out of Lebanon, and Italy asked for high-level discussions among the four countries in the Multi-National Force (MNF). Indications were that Britain, France and Italy would like to withdraw soon, but that no one wanted to take immediate action without consulting fellow contributors to the 5,000-man force. Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti sent messages to Washington, London and Paris asking for a meeting "in light of the dramatic events" in Lebanon. Visiting the Hague, French President Francois Mitterrand told a news conference that France had not sent troops to Lebanon "to stay there indefinitely." British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, under questioning in the House of Commons, said the Beirut situation had "deteriorated overnight" and her government was in "urgent and constant touch" with other countries in the peace force.

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

TEL AVIV (R) — A growing number of Israelis believe former President Yitzhak Navon is more suited than Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to lead the country, according to results of a public opinion poll published Tuesday. Mr. Navon, a former Labour Party parliamentarian who left the mostly ceremonial post of state president last May, was chosen by 29.8 per cent of the 1,200 Israelis questioned in the poll published in the Haaretz newspaper. Mr. Shamir was judged most suitable by 12.5 per cent of those polled.

Just after the second attack, the nation's top Shi'ite militia commander, Nabih Berri, and the Lebanese army command issued separate statements calling for a

enemies erode our steadfastness. We shall rush to meet them on the battlefield," Mr. Eram said in a

A Lebanese soldier waves his M-16 rifle out of his jeep as the vehicle speeds through a Beirut street after many Lebanese army soldiers defected and joined leftist militiamen who took over west Beirut Tuesday (AP wirephoto)

Egypt's readmission last week to the Islamic conference and Mr. Mubarak's recent tour of African

They also said they did not know about a trip to Cairo by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader before then.

The invitation, formally conveyed to Egypt by President

Asked if the MNF can play a useful role amid the current chaos, Mr. Shultz replied: "Whether there is a way to construct our foreign policy to facilitate the purpose of facilitating the formation of a government of national reconciliation."

"In particular, we welcome President Reagan's proposals for:

- Intensified Lebanese-Syrian consultations, and
- Complete withdrawal of all

'was being made "at the request of some (Arab) governments" without being specific.

Shah-levelist shot dead in Paris

government in May, 1982, by Deputy Attorney General Yeh- Of 70 complaints by Pal- estinian city of Hebron and van- dalised Palestinian property thre-

Sources said that three men were responsible for the killings.

- U.S.: Israel considering options over Lebanon, page 2
- Joint venture to design Irbid Industrial Estate, page 3
- Israel waits to reap the whirlwind, page 4
- Youngest U.N. agency faces serious financial trouble, page 5
- Jordan International Car Rally set for July end, page 6
- U.S. budget deficit may rise to \$326 billion by 1989, page 7
- U.K. tightens security for Indian diplomats, page 8

Political chaos wracks Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Violence, terror and political chaos wracked Lebanon Tuesday after Muslim opposition leaders refused any compromise with President Amin Gemayel.

Battles which erupted between the Lebanese army and Muslim militias throughout Beirut and the nearby mountains Monday morning were still raging early Tuesday.

Shelling and machine gun fire echoed through the streets and acrid smoke blotted out the sky. Panic swept through busy shopping and residential areas as carloads of gunmen careered across the city shooting in the air.

Artillery flashes burst upon the night sky and residents covered in basements and stairwells.

Fighting had not engulfed the centre of Beirut since three days of chaos last August.

A U.S. military spokesman said American Marines at Beirut Airport came under heavy fire and one Marine was injured. Two U.S. planes and a warship responded by bombarding targets in the mountains, he said.

France, which also has troops in Beirut, said one man was killed and two were injured when rockets hit their positions.

Faced with increasing violence and a complete political deadlock, President Gemayel announced a new peace plan on Saturday night. He offered to replace the cabinet, which resigned on Saturday morning, with a government of national unity and appealed for a ceasefire.

But Syrian-backed opposition leaders said Monday they saw no future in talks with Mr. Gemayel, whom they accuse of representing only Falangist interests, and demanded his resignation.

President Reagan said Monday the U.S. commitment to Lebanon remained "unwavering". He blamed Syria for the latest fighting and called on it to help stop the bloodshed.

State-run Beirut Radio said U.S. special envoy Donald Ramo said Mr. Gemayel, but gave no details of what was discussed.

Street battles and the collapse of the telephone system made it impossible to check rival claims by

the army and opposition forces or to gather information on casualties.

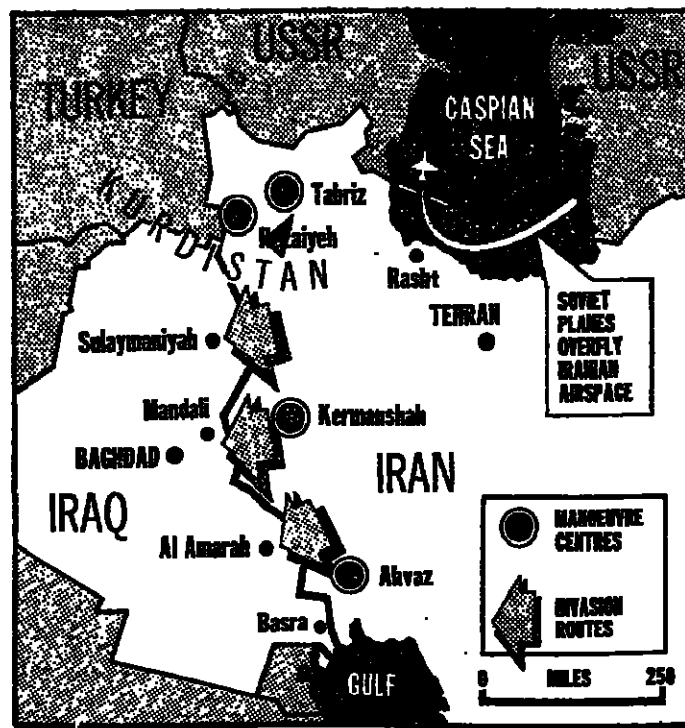
The army said it had cut a corridor of territory linking Druze militias in the mountains to Shi'ite Muslim fighters in the southern suburbs of Beirut, but the militias denied it.

A Druze radio station quoted Shi'ite leader Nabih Berri as saying opposition militias now controlled all of the mainly-Muslim Western sector of Beirut. He said army units stationed in the west had sided with the opposition.

Nearly half of the army consists of Shi'ite Muslims, many of them recruited within the last few months.

The Italian Defence Ministry said eight members of the Italian contingent to the Multinational Force in Beirut were injured.

The opposition sees the Americans and French as having taken the government's side in the factional fighting. But it regards the Italians as neutral and only one of them has been killed and less than 60 have been injured since they arrived in Lebanon in August 1982.



The three separate prongs of the expected onslaught

Iran expected to launch new major offensive

TEHRAN — Among the welter of military equipment arriving at Tehran Airport in recent weeks has been a strange consignment from Taiwan — boxes containing small plastic front-door-size keys in a variety of colours. They are symbolic keys to the gates of paradise, and they will be distributed to the Ayatollah Khomeini's soldiers on the eve of battle.

They are also one of the ominous signs that Iran is preparing for a new attack on Iraq, to be called the Battle of Destiny, in the war which has now dragged on at a cost of about 240,000 dead, for 40 months.

The new offensive, ordered by Khomeini himself against the advice of senior military commanders who favour a slow war of attrition, could start as early as next weekend, the fifth anniversary of the Iranian revolution. A more likely date, though, is the last week of March, by which time the snow that blocks mountainous roads in the northern sector of the 800-mile front should have melted.

It is probable that the offensive will be split into three separate attacks. The northern prong would aim at cutting the only pipeline now exporting Iraq's oil, via Turkey. In this sector — a further threat to the Iraqis — the Iranian forces would be reinforced by Kurdish rebels.

In the central sector, the objective would be to break the defences of Baghdad, the Iraqi capital, and it is here that the Iraqis are expected to send the largest number of troops into action. Finally, the southern prong would seek to isolate Basra, Iraq's second largest city.

On Thursday, more than a million Iranian soldiers began the biggest manoeuvres in their nation's history, codenamed The Road to Jerusalem, in preparation for the offensive. The main aim of the manoeuvres is to test the effectiveness of "human waves" sent against highly fortified defences.

Reagan calls on Syria to stop shelling

DIXON, Illinois (AP) — President Reagan on Monday condemned the outbreak of fighting in Lebanon and called on Syria to bring the shelling of the civilian areas to a halt and to cut off supplies for terrorist attacks.

With Muslim militiamen taking control of the Western half of Beirut, Mr. Reagan said, "The commitment of the United States to unity, independence and sovereignty of Lebanon remains firm and unwavering. We will continue to support the government and the people of Lebanon in their efforts to achieve these goals."

Mr. Reagan's statement was issued here as the president toured his boyhood home.

In his statement the president said: "Once more the news from Lebanon is filled with scenes of indiscriminate killing and suffering. I know that men and women of good will throughout the world share my deep concern over the renewed violence."

"They join me in deploring the continued shelling of innocent civilians and the actions of those who would destroy the legitimate government of Lebanon," Mr. Reagan said. "I call on the government of Syria, which occupies Lebanese territory from which much of the shelling of civilian centres originates and which facilitates and supplies instruments for terrorist attacks on the people of Lebanon, to cease this activity."

Mr. Reagan said he welcomed efforts by President Amin Gemayel to form a new government, stop the fighting and achieve reconciliation in Lebanon.

"All responsible Lebanese political leaders should take this opportunity to bring into being the more broadly representative government they say they want and which we have continually supported," Mr. Reagan said. "I urge all parties to answer President Gemayel's call. It is time for all Lebanese to rise above their confessional or factional affiliation and join together as citizens of one nation united and sovereign."

Earlier, White House spokesman Larry Speakes said the administration does not believe the Lebanese government has collapsed and hopes President Amin Gemayel can quickly form a responsible, broadly representative government.

O'Neill urges evacuation

Meanwhile U.S. House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill said Monday that "everything has fallen apart" in Beirut and called for U.S. Marines stationed there to be sent to the safety of ships lying offshore.

Senate Majority Leader Howard H. Baker Jr. Stopped short of advocating a pullout, but he said: "American Marines are covered on three sides by hostile fire" and "the government in effect is up for grabs."

Sen. Baker declined further

comment until he is briefed by the State Department on the situation in Beirut.

Asked what the United States should do if the government of Lebanese President Amin Gemayel collapses, Sen. Baker said: "I don't know."

The remarks of Mr. O'Neill and Sen. Baker followed a Pentagon announcement that U.S. warships off Lebanon struck back with gunfire and airstrikes after Marines at the Beirut Airport had come under fire.

"I think it's (been) very tenuous for an awfully time," Mr. O'Neill said of the political crisis in Lebanon. "What good are our Marines doing over there?"

He added: "They were there for the purpose of showing a display for diplomacy, but everything has fallen apart."

Mr. O'Neill told reporters the Marines should be redeployed on navy ships off Beirut.

The speaker said U.S. President Ronald Reagan "does not want to be pushed by Congress, and he wants to do it on his own free will... There's no question in my mind that somewhere along the line the president will take them out. But I say why not now?"

Earlier in the day, Mr. O'Neill said a resolution calling for the withdrawal of U.S. Marines from Lebanon would pass the house with overwhelming Democratic support and at least 40 to 50 Republican votes.

U.S., Israel discussing Lebanon options

By Nicolas B. Tatro
Associated Press

TEL AVIV — Israel and the United States are discussing options for shoring up the teetering Lebanese government of President Amin Gemayel, it was learned Monday.

But the possibility of military moves is severely limited by strong domestic opposition in both countries to further involvement in Lebanon.

But countries also have doubts about how effective military steps would be in view of the defeat the Lebanese army appeared to be suffering at the hands of Shi'ite Muslim militiamen.

The U.S. has 2,200 Marines in Beirut plus the heavy guns of the U.S. 6th Fleet off the Lebanese coast. Israel has considerable air and naval power that could also be brought to bear.

For domestic political reasons, neither Israel nor Washington wanted to be seen as the first to use force. Even if such action were taken, it could be neutralised if the Lebanese army falls apart along sectarian lines as it did in the

1975-76 civil war.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has indicated that Mr. Gemayel's survival is important but not vital to Israel. He stressed in two recent interviews that Israel's main objective was only to insure that its northern border was secure.

"If we can reach understanding with the Lebanese government, so much the better. If not, Israel will find a way to security arrangements in South Lebanon," Mr. Shamir told the conservative daily Maariv newspaper.

NEWS ANALYSIS

An Israeli official who declined to be identified said Israel would not wage "all-out war" to save Mr. Gemayel, who was elected president in the wake of Israel's 1982 invasion.

The events in Beirut, however, may prolong Israel's stay in South Lebanon despite daily attacks by Shi'ite Muslim and anti-government militias.

The feeling here was that Israel is unlikely to stage a pullback that would leave a security vacuum in

the south in such a way as to give Syrian President Hafez Assad's government a political victory.

The besieged state of the Lebanese government in Beirut meant, however, that it was unlikely to send Lebanese soldiers south in the foreseeable future to pave the way for an orderly Israeli withdrawal.

Threatened along with the Gemayel government is the U.S.-mediated Lebanon-Israel agreement signed on May 17, 1983.

Abrogation of that agreement plus the failure of either Israel or Washington to rescue a friendly government could have a long-range negative impact on future peace-making efforts.

It was also learned that agreement had been near between Mr. Gemayel's government and his principal opponent, Syrian-backed predominantly Druze Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblat.

But Junblat, apparently under pressure from Syria, backed away at the last minute.

Europarlament president criticises Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Pieter Dankert, President of the European Parliament, Monday sharply criticised Israel's policy in Lebanon during a speech to the Israeli parliament.

He told a special session of the house that the European Community members had been "extremely worried" by Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, which he

said had harmed its standing in the world and proved detrimental to broader Israeli interests.

Israel had ignored the Palestinian problem too long, he said, adding that the Israeli settlement programme in the occupied West Bank and Gaza was "counterproductive to a peaceful Middle East settlement."

He urged Israel to make "more

positive responses so that a Middle East solution can be found."

Mr. Dankert, who ends a three-day visit to Israel Tuesday, also said that Israeli parliamentary speaker Menachem Savidov's condemnation of the European Parliament for adopting a resolution on the Middle East "showed that he (Savidov) had not read the resolution."



Two Shi'ite gunmen prepare to fire a 75mm recoilless rifle in West Beirut, Monday, as the gunmen drove the Lebanese army out of virtually all of West Beirut during heavy fighting in the city (AP wirephoto)

ICRC to administer Jew's bequest to PLO

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Money left by a Jew to help the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is to be handled by the Red Cross to benefit Palestinians, a court agreed Monday.

Fred Sparks, a Jewish newspaperman from New York who died in 1981, left between \$30,000 and \$40,000, or 10 per cent of his residuary estate, to the PLO.

Several Jewish groups objected and the New York Surrogate Court ordered a hearing to decide the validity of the bequest.

Under a settlement approved by New York County Surrogate Marie Lambert, the bequest is to

be paid to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which will set up the "Fred Sparks Fund". This is to be used "solely for the betterment of the living conditions of the Palestinian people."

Details of the settlement were contained in court papers released at a press conference by the PLO's United Nations observer, Zehdi Terzi.

Mr. Terzi said the bequest to the PLO would be "administered on its behalf by the ICRC, which has graciously agreed to administer the funds."

The court papers did not specifically say, however, that the

Red Cross would be acting on the PLO's behalf.

Mr. Terzi said the settlement vindicated the PLO's position that it was not only a juridical entity capable of accepting a bequest under New York State laws, but "is not a terrorist organisation" as it had been characterised by certain parties appearing in the legal action.

He praised the U.S. legal system and hoped the "spirit of settlement which prevailed in this particular case" would be extended to other areas and lead to better understanding between the U.S. and the PLO.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

17:30 Koran
17:40 Cartoons
18:05 Children's Programmes
18:30 We Are Moving
18:55 Sherlock Holmes
19:20 Programme on Agriculture
19:30 News in Arabic
20:00 Arabic Series
21:30 House Calls
22:15 Varieties
23:10 News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Arabic
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 House Calls
21:00 Science International
21:10 Reilly - Eps. 5
22:00 News in English
22:15 Strike Force: Kidnap

RADIO JORDAN

553 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
& partly on 550 KHz. SW

07:00 Light Music
07:30 News Desk
08:00 Morning Show
09:00 News Summary
10:05 Morning Show
11:00 Pope Session
12:00 News Summary
12:45 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 News Bulletin
14:20 Oh! Mother
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instruments
16:30 Old Favourites
17:30 Jordan Weekly
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Over a Cup of Tea
18:30 Music
19:00 News Desk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show
22:00 News Summary
23:00 News Summary
24:00 News Headlines

BBC WORLD SERVICE

634.730, 1413 KHz.

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Waveguide 06:40 Book Choice 06:45 Financial News 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:05 24 Hours: News Summary 07:30 What's New 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Talking about Music 08:40 World News 08:45 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30 Let There Be Drums 09:45 Report on Religion 10:00 World News 10:05 Reflections 10:15 Peoples' Choice 10:30 Yes Minister 11:00 World News 11:05 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Anything for a Laugh 12:15 Rock Back the Clock 12:30 English Hours 12:50 Recording of the Week 13:00 World News 13:05 News about Britain 13:15 A Sense of Place 13:30 Mendenham 14:00 Radio Newcastle 14:15 Nature Notebook 14:25 The Farming World 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:05 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Personal Impact 15:45 Edward Elgar: The Making of a Composer 16:15 Report on Religion 16:30 Yes Minister 17:00 Radio Newcastle 17:15 Outlook 18:30 World News 18:35 Commentary 18:45 Rock Salad 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:35 Monitor 19:35 News Ideas 19:35 Waveguide 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsdesk 20:30 Top Twenty 21:00 Outlook 21:30 Stock Market Report 21:45 Look Ahead 21:45 Arthur Rubinstein 22:00 World News 22:05 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30 The Reith Lectures 23:00 Network U.K. 23:15 Short Story 23:30 Jazz for the Asking 24:00 World News 00:05 The World Today 00:25 Book Choice 22:30 Financial News 00:45 Reflections 00:45 Sports Round-up 01:00 World News 01:05 Commentary 01:15 A Sense of Place 01:30 Top Twenty

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260, SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 & 15210 KHz.

06:00 VOA Morning: News on the hour, news summaries, daily business report, science and medicine, sports reports, VOA editorial and world and U.S. opinion roundups, analysis, viewpoints, features 17:00 News 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 News 18:10 Focus 18:30 News Music USA 19:00 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30 Special English News and Features

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* "Orientalist" original paintings, at the Alia Art Gallery.
* Pablo Picasso's paintings at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m.

VIDEO

* Video programme starts at French Cultural Centre at 4:30 p.m.

FILM

* "Airplane" starts at the American Centre at 8:00 p.m.
* "Gone With the Wind" starts at Goethe Institute at 8:00 p.m.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre: Tel. 6610267
American Centre: 44371
British Council: 36147-R
French Cultural Centre: 37009
Goethe Institute: 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre: 4203
Spanish Cultural Centre: 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre: 39777
Haya Arts Centre: 665195
Hussein Youth City: 667181
Y.W.C.A.: 41793
Y.W.M.C.A.: 664251
Amman Municipal Library: 36111
University of Jordan Library: 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal gavi'ah (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a col-

lection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century oriental artists. Muznah, Jabal Lweibdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128. Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240. Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club: Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel, 1:30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club: Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1:30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club: Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Amman, tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic): Jabal Lweibdeh, 37440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Hussein, 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox): Abdah, 23541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer): Jabal Amman, 41559.
Armenian Catholic Church: Ashrafieh, 71331.
Armenian Orthodox Church: Ashrafieh, 75261.

PRAYER TIMES

06:00 Fajr
06:20 (Sunrise) Shuruq
11:50 Dhuhr
14:52 'Asr
17:15 Maghreb
18:40 'Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 43250, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

07:00 Cairo (EA)
07:15 Karachi (PIA)
07:25 The Agaba (RJA)
09:15 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:45 Doha, Kuwait (RJ)
09:45 Cairo (RJ)
10:15 Beirut (KLM)
11:05 Moscow, Bahrain (KLM)
14:05 Cairo (MS)
14:05 Kuwait (KU)
14:50 Bucharest, Laraca (RO)
15:00 Jeddah (SV)
15:30 Cairo (RJ)
17:00 Rio de Janeiro, Lisbon (IA)
17:15 New York, Vienna (RJ)
17:50 Copenhagen, Athens (RJ)
18:00 Paris, Damascus (AF)
18:30 Beirut (MEA)
18:30 Cairo (RJ)
18:30 Bangkok (RJ)
18:30 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
20:05 Cairo (MS)
20:20 Frankfurt, Laraca (LH)
20:25 Zurich, Athens, Damascus (SR)
06:45 Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES

06:45 Cairo (RJ)
06:55 Laraca, Frankfurt (LH)
06:55 Beirut (RJ)
07:00 Agaba (RJ)
07:00 Cairo (RJ)
08:30 Athens (OA)
08:30 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PIA)
10:05 Damascus, Rome (Alitalia)
11:00 Vienna, New York (RJ)
11:30 Cairo (RJ)
11:55 Amsterdam (KLM)
12:00 London (RJ)
14:20 Cairo (RJ)
15:05 Cairo (MS)
15:40 Kuwait (KU)
16:30 Laraca, Bucharest (Tarom)
16:30 Jeddah (Saudiya)
18:00 Baghdad (IA)
19:30 Kuwait, Doha (RJ)

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local selling rates in JLD
Belgian franc 66.5/ 66.9
Dutch guilder 120.7/ 121.4
Egyptian pound 32.1/ 32.5
French franc 44.3/ 44.6
Iraqi dinar 367.3/ 373.6
Italian lire (for 100) 22.2/ 22.4
Japanese yen (for 100) 160.3/ 161.3
Kuwaiti dinar 1273.6/ 1278.3
Lebanese lira 63.9/ 64.8
Omani rial 1073.2/ 1081.6
Qatari riyal 102.1/ 102.8
Saudi riyal 106.6/ 107.2
Swedish crown 46.2/ 46.5
Swiss franc 169.7/ 170.7
Syrian lira 54.6/ 55.6
UAE dirham 101.5/ 102.3
U.K. sterling pound 534.1/ 537.3
U.S. dollar 374/ 376
W. German mark 136.2/ 137

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
A depression will be affected the area, which will last for 24 hours. So, the weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy and rainy. Winds will be westerly from in less speed. In Agaba, it will be partly cloudy, with chances of scattered showers. Winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Low/high temperature in deg.C

Amman 35/18
Agaba 35/18
Deserts 35/12
Jordan Valley 35/18
Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 10; Agaba 20. Humidity readings: Amman 95 per cent, Agaba 42 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance 193, 75111
Fire, fire, police 199
Blood bank 75121
Civil Defence centre 64111
Fire headquarters 22090-3
Police rescue 192, 21111, 37777
Police headquarters 39141
Traffic police 56300-1
Electric Power Co. 36381-2
Municipal water service 71125-8
Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 53333

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre 813813-32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amman 44281-4
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amman 42441
Jabal Amman Maternity 42362
Malhas, J. Amman 36140
Palestine, Shamsiyya 664171-4
Shamsiyya Hospital 669131
University Hospital 848485
Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667158
Al-Musharraf Hospital 66727-6
The Islamic, Abdah 665292
Al-Ahli, Abdah 664164
Italian, Al-Muhajiroun 77101-3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 75111
Army, Madaba 91611

IRRD

Dr. Isam Al Saleh 74722
Modern pharmacy 2308
ZARQA:
Dr. Yalwa Hajji 84354
Palestine pharmacy (-)

GENERAL

Jordan Television 73111
Radio Jordan 74111
Ministry of Tourism 42311
Hotel complaints 666412
Price complaints 661176
Telephone:
Information 12
Jordan and Middle East calls 10
Overseas calls 17
Cable or telegram 18
Repair services 11

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Adnan Al Zighloul 98140

MARKET PRICES

NEWS IN BRIEF

World Bank approves \$40m loan

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank Tuesday approved a \$40 million loan for the building of 47 primary and secondary schools in Jordan. The bank said in a statement that the \$122 million project would accommodate increased enrolments in Amman, Irbid, Balqa, Ma'an and Karak and reduce average class sizes from the current level of 70 students to about 40-50.

Ministry gives priority to agri roads

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Public Works has allocated JD 300,000 for building new agricultural roads this year. Public Works Minister Rayef Nijm said the aim of opening these roads is to ensure access to agricultural areas throughout the year.

DLDNA to mount book show in Aqaba

AMMAN (Petra) — Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives (DLDNA), in co-operation with the Aqaba municipality, will open a week-long book exhibition in the Aqaba municipality Wednesday. The exhibition aims to acquaint citizens with the work of local writers and books issued during the last four years. The books will be sold to the public during the exhibition at competitive prices. During the exhibition, audio visual aids and recreational and cultural films about children will be shown.

Hikmat fixes Amman-Aqaba bus fare

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Transport Taher Hikmat has decided to fix the pullman bus fare for travellers on the Aqaba-Amman line at JD 2.5, on the condition that buses are air-conditioned and equipped with all the necessary comforts for long distance travel.

Irbid housing complex completed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing Corporation has taken over the completed JD 3.5 million housing project, constructed at Zabada, in the Irbid Governorate. This project includes 392 apartments of various categories of homes. The Housing Corporation has already received applications from Irbid government employees wishing to benefit from this project. Priorities in allocating the units will be discussed by the committee in charge.

Foreign universities team visits Yarmouk

IRBID (Petra) — A delegation from the universities of Zurich, Stockholm and California called at Yarmouk University and met its president, Dr. Adnan Badran Tuesday. They were briefed on the university's programme and past development before meeting other officials and watching a documentary film on the university.

Alia to start flying to L.A. at beginning of March

AMMAN (Petra) — Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline has decided to open a direct air route to Chicago and Los Angeles to become operative from the beginning of March.

Alia will operate TriStar 500 airplanes on this line, which is regarded as the longest route flown by any Arab airline.

The aircraft, one of four Tri-Stars recently contracted by Alia with Lockheed, will be delivered at the beginning of March.

The new aircraft is scheduled to leave the Queen Alia International Airport (QAJA) at 11:00 a.m. Mondays and Fridays every week with flights in the other direction arriving in the evening of the same day.

Meanwhile, Alia has decided to open a new air route to the Far

JCO loans details released

AMMAN (J.T.) — The total loans approved by the Jordanian Co-operative Organisation (JCO) during 1983 came to JD 3.6 million. This is JD 200,000 less than the previous year, when loans totalled JD 3.8 million.

Co-operative bank director, Mr. Suleiman Sarhan, said that approximately 2,000 members have benefited from these loans.

Militiamen take over west Beirut

(Continued from page 1)

radio stations. "So I call on you to remain constantly vigilant. I call on you to report to duty, each in his respective field, whether it is military, social or humanitarian," Mr. Frem said.

Amal and PSP militiamen clashed with government troops on the main crossroads linking east and west Beirut earlier in the day, and shells rained on the eastern and western sectors of the Lebanese capital.

Shelling attacks tapered off at 4:30 a.m. (0730 GMT), and fire-fights began dying down soon afterwards at three main intersections on the "green line" that divides Beirut into mainly Muslim and predominantly Christian halves.

Only scattered bursts of automatic fire rang around the port area and the downtown Murr Tower that overlooks the Fuad Shhab "ring" crossing intersection. Other intersections — at the museum mid-city road and Sodco — were quiet, army source said.

The source conceded the loss of west Beirut to the militiamen and said the 37,000-man army of the Gemayel administration was split along sectarian and geographical lines.

Most army units in West Beirut defected to, or refused to fight, with the Muslim militias, the source said. Mr. Berri has demanded the resignation of the 42-year-old Maronite Catholic president.

Militiamen in control

Army sentries stood guard at the entrances of main government buildings in west Beirut, including the Prime Ministry, the central bank and radio and television stations. Amal militiamen stood next to the sentries.

Irregulars had men posted in west Beirut's main hospitals, including that of the American University, taking charge of ambulance services and admissions into emergency wards.

One Amal militiaman was seen forcing open a grocery near the Commodore Hotel, the main centre of Western journalists covering the Lebanese strife.

The militiamen then brought the owner of the grocery from his nearby house, telling him "this is not a time for cowardice. People must eat and you should give them the food."

Amal and PSP militiamen also were seen driving armoured personnel carriers apparently seized from the army through west Beirut's Hamra and Manara districts.

Fighters from the two groups also manned sandbagged checkpoints previously held by the army all along a coastal road from West Beirut to the Ouzai beach near the airport and then to the Shi'ite-populated southern suburbs of the capital.

The hardest hit areas in the daybreak bombardment were Hamra, Manara and the seaside Rouche neighbourhoods.

PSP-Marine 'deal'

Marines at the American embassy on the Beirut seaford said reinforcements were brought in by helicopters late Monday, but that they had been warned by militiamen not to bring in any more helicopters or they would be shot down.

Amal militiamen, the nation's largest paramilitary force, drove an armoured personnel carrier up a small side road on a bluff about 250 metres from the Marine perimeter at 'Ein Mreisshe.

Witnesses said army troops who held out at the Bain Militaire beach encampment below 'Ein Mreisshe corniche were still



Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat (top of table) Tuesday chairs a meeting of the Social Security Corporation in the presence of (to his right) Minister of

Labour Tayseer Abdul Jabbar and (to his left) Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism Jawad Al Anani (Petra photo)

'Obeidat urges greater attention by SSC to housing projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat Tuesday urged the Social Security Corporation (SSC) and other concerned departments to give due attention to housing projects to be built in various governorates.

The prime minister was speaking at a meeting held at the SSC headquarters attended by the ministerial development committee which comprises the ministers of industry, trade and tourism, finance and the president of the National Planning Council, and the Central Bank governor.

The meeting was also attended by Labour Minister Tayseer Abdul Jabbar in his capacity as SSC board chairman, and SSC Director-General Farhi Obeid and senior aides.

At the outset of the meeting, Dr. Abdul Jabbar presented a detailed report on the SSC's activities since its establishment and the application of SSC law to various institutions.

The prime minister reviewed with the committee's members the SSC's investment policies especially those which guide its investments in social and economic projects.

"The SSC should channel additional funds to the Housing Corporation to enable it to carry out its housing projects," the prime minister said.

The prime minister stressed the need to speed up the establishment of a projected centre for "investment studies" which the SSC and the Pension Fund are

jointly carrying out. This centre will be entrusted with conducting feasibility studies on all social and economic projects, and will seek new areas for investment in the country.

At the meeting it was decided that companies and other institutions that employ at least 10 people should be included in the SSC law as of July 1984. Before only those employing 20 workers or more were covered by the SSC law.

The prime minister also instructed SSC officials to make arrangements to include Jordanians working abroad in the SSC law upon their own request and desire.

The decision was taken in view of the numerous applications received by the SSC in this respect.

Abbadi scripts German films on Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Episodes from the social development of Jordan in the time of the late King Abdullah and during the period of His Majesty King Hussein, and the efforts exerted by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan are among the subjects to be filmed by Universal Stories in five different languages, according to an item in the Arabic daily newspaper Al Ra'i.

These stories are written by Jordanian writer, Dr. Ahmad Oweidi Abbadi, who was selected as a scriptwriter by a German company specialised in making and producing films.

The films will be made in Arabic, English, French, Italian and German.

Dr. Abbadi has written these stories in both Arabic and English and in this form they have been approved by the company.

Many of the scenes from these stories will be filmed in Jordan.

Some of the most famous film actors in the world will star in the productions, Al Ra'i says.

The next step in the process will be for scenario writers to script the screenplay.

Dr. Abbadi was the first man to pen a television series about Jordanian history, Al Ra'i said.

Dr. Ahmad Oweidi Abbadi



Dr. Ahmad Oweidi Abbadi

JCO seeks to expand agri marketing in Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Co-operative Organisation Director Hassan Nabulsi conferred at his office Tuesday with a visiting Iraqi co-operative delegation on ways of expanding the marketing

of Jordanian agricultural products in Iraq.

The two sides also discussed the possibility of Iraq benefiting from Jordan's expertise and experience in the field of growing crops in greenhouses and under plastic sheeting.

The Iraqi delegation, which arrived in Amman Monday evening, is being led by Khaled Bader, deputy president of the federation of Iraqi Co-operative Societies.

Hikmat holds trade talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Transport Minister Taher Hikmat Tuesday discussed with under-secretary of the Iraqi Ministry of Industry and Minerals the exporting of Iraqi products through the port of Aqaba and other matters pertaining to transport between Jordan and Iraq.

The Iraqi official expressed his country's appreciation of Jordan's efforts at facilitating Iraqi-Jordanian transport operations and the exportation of Iraqi products through Jordan.

Joint venture to design Irbid industrial estate

AMMAN (J.T.) — A joint Jordanian-Danish venture Tuesday signed an agreement with the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) to conduct feasibility studies and prepare designs and tender documents for an industrial estate to be set up in Irbid.

Under the agreement, the Jordanian-Danish Group will prepare designs for the project to be constructed on a 411 dunum plot of land not far away from the permanent site of Yarmouk University.

The project, to be completed early next year, will include a variety of different installations vital for industries as well as all necessary public utilities like water, electricity, roads, telegraph and telephone facilities, post offices, banks and shopping centres, plus housing units for workers.

The agreement was signed by Minister of Industry, Trade and

Tourism Jawad Al Anani and the Jordanian-Danish Group's manager in Amman.

According to a JIEC spokesman, the Saudi Fund for Development will finance half of the project by offering the corporation a long-term soft loan while the other half will be covered by local loans and the corporation's capital fund.

He said that the new industrial estate will be the second in Jordan built by the JIEC after the Sahab Industrial Estate near Amman.

Yugoslav team leaves

AMMAN (Petra) — Yugoslav Defence Minister Branco Marmola and his accompanying delegation left Amman Tuesday after a four-day official visit to Jordan.

During the trip, he met His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat and Commander-in-Chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces Lieutenant-General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

The Yugoslav defence minister was seen off at the airport by Sharif Zaid. Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Fathi Abu Taleb, in addition to a number of senior army officers and Yugoslav ambassador to Jordan Todor Bojadavski.

Weather favours farmers, says meteorological office

AMMAN (J.T.) — More rain fell Tuesday boosting the hopes of Jordanian farmers, according to a spokesman at the meteorological department. The amount of rainfall was good and covered large areas, he added.

The amount of rainfall registered this month is more than the amount registered over the same period last year, he said.

ARMICO board to review report

AMMAN (Petra) — Director-General of the Arab Mining Company ARMICO, Thabet Taher, left for Bahrain Monday to participate in the ARMICO board meeting to be held there Wednesday.

During the meeting, the board will review ARMICO's annual report which focus on its operations, progress of work and annual accounts.

Meanwhile, the spokesman continued, the country is still affected by a frontal depression centered on eastern Cyprus.

Therefore, the weather will continue to be partly cloudy Wednesday with heavy but scattered showers of rain and westerly fresh to strong winds, the force of which will decrease during the day.

Hassan visits army HQ

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday called on the Jordanian Army's General Command Headquarters and met Commander-in-Chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces Lieutenant-General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

During the meeting, a number of issues of interest to the Jordanian armed forces were discussed.

Also attending the meeting was Chief of the Royal Hashemite Court Marwan Al Qasem.

Faqou' social centre opens

AMMAN (Petra) — Under-secretary at the Ministry of Social Development, Mr. Muhammad Ali Wardan, Wednesday inaugurates the Social Development Centre in the Faqou' region on the Karak Governorate.

The centre, which was established by the ministry in co-operation with the region's inhabitants and the municipal council, aims to raise the social and economic standard of the inhabitants.

466 students failed at Yarmouk U. due to poor academic performance

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — 466 students were sent down from Yarmouk University Monday for obtaining overall averages of less than 70 per cent in the first semester examinations.

78 of these students were from the Faculty of Arts, 72 from the Faculty of Engineering, 174 from the Faculty of Sciences, 112 from the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, 21 medical science students, three pharmacy students, three medical technology students and three education diploma students.

Yarmouk University President Dr. Adnan Badran, stated that these students have been refused

readmission because they failed to fulfil the conditions required for the continuation of their studies as their marks were less than the minimum general overall average of 70 per cent following several warnings over a period of two semesters.

Yarmouk University president also added that when the university implements its regulations it aims to maintain the quality of its graduates and the academic standard because "we care for quality rather than quantity."

According to the director of public relations at the university, Majed Ghanma, the students form only three per cent of the total of 13,000 students at the university. Last year, he maintained, the ratio

was five per cent. Mr. Ghanma told the Jordan Times that students were given three chances before being expelled.

When their average went under 70 per cent they were given the first warning after the first course, then the second warning after the second course and, since they did not raise their average after the third course, they had to be sent down.

"The students have only themselves to blame for their failure," Mr. Ghanma said.

They had three chances to improve their marks and they did not, he said, adding that the average of 70 per cent is not difficult for any student to achieve.

Student uniforms: Answer to alienation, or anathema?

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Youth in Jordan — just like young people everywhere — are suffering considerably from psychological strains due to many social problems.

University students in particular have their share of such problems one of which is social discrimination and the feeling of alienation within the campus caused by differences in financial status and social class.

A few years back, and as an attempt to minimise this phenomenon, the University of Jordan was seriously studying a project to provide uniforms for its students, and some designers were approached to come up with suggestions.

The project faced strong objections from a large number of students and was therefore postponed, later being forgotten.

Mr. Fuad Mimi, one of the designers who was asked to come up with suggestions for the university students at the time, told the Jordan Times that the university was planning to adopt a variety of types of uniforms with different designs and colours, and not just one as many people thought at the time.

The point is, Mr. Mimi added, to enable the students to choose from a variety of uniforms while at the same time producing them in such quantities as to be able to keep the prices down.

According to Mr. Bassam Abu Nasr, a student at Yarmouk University, uniforms are the only way to minimise social discrimination and the feeling of alienation.

Uniforms nevertheless will not entirely eliminate this phenomenon if adopted, he maintains, because there will still be students who will modify their uniforms in order to make it distinct.

On the other hand, uniforms are the only way to distinguish university students from outsiders who visit the university. The behaviour of such visitors often ends up giving a bad reputation to the students and disrupting the serenity of the campus, according to Mr. Nasr.

Call for equality

The call for uniforms, he said, is a call for equality between colleagues and for the preservation of our social values, he concluded.

There is no way a project to impose any kind of uniform could work at the Jordanian universities, Mr. Mahmoud Salem, a student at Yarmouk University said.

You might think I am exaggerating if I told you that a student once brought an extra dress in her bag in order to change after classes to attend a party she was invited to, he said illustrating the point.

Students will be the first to reject the idea of uniforms, Mr. Salem said. "No student will accept the idea of wearing something other people do, especially female students," he said.

Psychological hatred

Psychologically speaking, he added, there is a worldwide hatred of uniforms attributed which can be attributed to more than one reason. The fact that people always



Students at the University of Jordan display their preference for what clothes they would like to wear (J.T. file photo)

striving to look distinct from others as a scientific fact, he said. The majority of students studying at Jordanian universities did not favour the idea of having uniforms, but many of those interviewed declined to give any convincing reasons for their rejection. Only one student commented, "in case they decide to implement the idea, I would much appreciate it if they would consult us students before adopting any designs they expect us to wear."

The university administration cannot and will not impose any uniform on its students, president of the University of Jordan, Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali, told the Jordan Times.

He added that there is already a uniform for the university which some students and professors wear. The uniform, which is an olive green jacket and beige trousers is only used by a few students because the cloth in which it is made is not widely available yet.

As soon as the cloth is available, the uniform will be sold at a very low price, but no student will be compelled to wear it; it is there only for those who want it, Dr. Majali added.

As soon as the professors at the university start to wear the uniform, Dr. Majali said, "I think students will also be encouraged to wear it. We encourage students to wear these uniforms but we do not impose it on anybody," Dr. Majali stressed.

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The talk that harms

EGYPTIAN Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali told Newsweek magazine earlier this week that he saw Egypt's re-admission to the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) as a sign of moderation among Arab states. The Islamic move also showed an acceptance by the OIC of the Middle East peace process, he said. "We are beginning to see the fall of radicalism," Dr. Ghali added. And "sooner or later, Egyptians will represent one in three Arabs... So, if you ask who is isolated, my answer is that it's the Arab World, not Egypt."

The Egyptian minister's statement, assuming it is fully and correctly quoted, may truthfully and accurately reflect the current thinking in Cairo, and apparently there is nothing wrong with the Egyptians saying any and all of the above. But it is a bit too strong of a medicine for the Arabs to swallow, we would have thought.

It may be that Dr. Ghali himself is a little outspoken on Middle Eastern affairs, and his words do not necessarily translate the thoughts of his president and government with 100 per cent accuracy, for the Arabs to want to take an issue with every word of the above statement. It may also be the kind of audience towards which Dr. Ghali directed his statement that warranted the use of such language in describing Egyptian-Arab ties.

The whole issue really is whether the Egyptian minister was not too simplistic, let alone wrong or opportunistic, in portraying the mechanism of Egypt's return to the Arab and Islamic worlds. Fine, if the Arabs are moving towards moderation, and radicalism is on the wane. But are these two parallel movements the only dynamics of basic change towards rapprochement in both Egypt and the rest of the Arab World? Would Cairo please confirm, in words as well as action, that the peace President Sadat sought with Israel is the same peace that Hosni Mubarak is currently fighting for? And we would like to know exactly what Egypt could hope to achieve by insisting that it has been "right" in its political course, all along.

To make a long story short, we would advise the government of President Mubarak not to make an already precarious situation even worse. By saying something wrong, repeating it, and doing a totally different thing, at a crucial time, is not the best course Egypt could follow in re-integrating into the Arab fold and striving to achieve real Middle East peace. Let us insist on the need for all Arabs to be together in facing the common dangers and threats. Let us by all means exert more and harder efforts to make Egypt's reunion with the Arab World closer and healthier. Egypt should return, most Arabs agree, but, for continuity's sake, let us not allow too much one-sided talk stand in our way.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Guns not the answer

THE LEBANESE government has not learnt a lesson from the previous battles in the mountains around Beirut. It sent its army to dislodge the various militias from their positions but instead sustained numerous casualties. The government has sent the army to west Beirut in a bid to impose its control there but its attempts were again thwarted by the militias. The government must realise that guns can not solve any of the problems and the best way to reach peace is through negotiation and dialogue with the other parties.

The opposition and the various factional groups in Lebanon believe that the government's decisions of deploying the army here and there come from the Falangist party's leadership and also from external powers which have interest in seeing a stable Lebanon where all parties can live in peace. Failure to resume the Geneva reconciliation conference stems from the fact that most factions and political groups in Lebanon believe another round will fail to yield fruitful results since the Beirut government remains adamant in its position.

Al Dustour: Travel restrictions essential

NO DOUBT the government's measures on travel across the Jordan River bridges are aimed at serving the country's national interest and tolling Israel's attempts to empty the Arab territories of their indigenous population. This was explained to the Lower House of Parliament at Monday's closed session by Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat who said that everything possible should be done to foil Israel's designs and ambitions. What Israel wants is to annex Arab lands that contain no people at all. To achieve this aim, the Israeli occupation authorities are continuously imposing arbitrary measures against the Arab people in a bid to force them to abandon their homeland.

Of course Jordan cannot remain impulsive in the face of Israel's measures and illegal practices, and has had to introduce precautionary measures to stem forced emigration, while the same time bolstering the steadfastness of the Arab population under Israeli rule. Therefore the measures imposed on travel across the river were necessary though they are not the only means of confronting Israel's policies against the Arab nation.

Sawt Al Shaab: Fair but firm

SOME YEARS ago controversy arose in Jordan about the situation on the bridges across the River Jordan: should they be kept open, closed or should other action be taken. Some people supported the idea of keeping them open but voiced their fears that Israel might use them to smuggle its exports into the Arab World. Some believed that the bridges should be closed and the Arab population under Israeli rule should find the means to resist the Israeli occupation. A third opinion submitted by the Jordanian government called for keeping the bridges open while at the same time bolstering the steadfastness of the Arab inhabitants on the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip and also maintaining links with the people in all possible forms.

At Monday's parliamentary session, the deputies heard the government's views about its recent measures on the bridges. The recent measures are aimed at stemming the emigration of people from the occupied lands and tolling Israel's attempts to annex land without people. The recent measures should be regarded by all as a means of safeguarding national interests.

MIDDLE EAST HORIZON

New Western tilt in favour of Iraq?

By Tara Bradford

THE IRAQ-Iran war has dragged on for an interminable 41 months, without either side making major concessions one way or the other. Despite the high stakes, the world's reaction has been little more than hand-wringing impotence. United Nations Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and non-aligned mediation efforts have all failed. The superpowers have hesitated to become involved. So the world hopes for best, but fears the worst.

However, lately it would appear a new tilt has developed in the West in favour of Iraq. In the past few months, the United States government has embarked on a series of subtle, yet markedly significant moves which suggest a thawing of diplomatic relations stalemated with Iraq since the Arab-Israeli War in 1967. These measures include ending a U.S. trade boycott of Iraq; dropping Iraq's name from the state department's list of countries that support international terrorism (promptly replacing it with Iran, although why this wasn't done during the Iranian hostage crisis remains a mystery); and a December 1983 meeting between U.S. Middle

East envoy Donald Rumsfeld and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Rumsfeld delivered a letter from President Ronald Reagan to President Hussein, dealing, according to press reports, with "bilateral relations. Middle East developments and efforts exerted by the U.S. envoy in Lebanon." Mr. Rumsfeld also met with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tarek Aziz, who previously conducted talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in Paris and in New York.

A State Department spokesman, John Hughes, later told reporters Mr. Rumsfeld's visit to Iraq was part of his mission in the Middle East to help bring peace in Lebanon and advance President Reagan's initiative for an overall Arab-Israeli peace. But Mr. Hughes carefully skirted the issue of direct U.S. intervention in the Iran-Iraq war. He said Washington was willing to have "full diplomatic relations" with Iraq.

As recently as November, the Reagan administration was still publicly pursuing a position of neutrality in the Gulf war. But some political observers view the current U.S.

"tilt" towards Iraq as a calculated attempt to regain credibility with "moderate" Arab states angered by the United States' massive support — economic, military and political — for Israel. Others perceive the U.S.' renewed interest in Iraq's welfare as a means to secure a foothold in the Gulf: in order to guarantee protection of the oil shipping lane through the Strait of Hormuz and as a way to inhibit Soviet influence in the area.

The crisis in the Gulf reached a new intensity when Iraq acquired sophisticated French Super Etendard aircraft and threatened to bomb Kharg Island, a key oil-shipping terminal for Iran. Iraq also announced plans to hit several Iranian towns with air and missile strikes. Iran retaliated with its usual warning regarding closure of the Strait of Hormuz, which is vital to the flow of much of the non-Communist world's oil.

In an interview last month with the French newspaper Le Figaro, President Reagan expressed concern that a prolonged conflict between Iraq and Iran could lead to the disruption of oil shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. "The

longer the Iran/Iraq war lasts, the greater the danger of escalation and the greater the threat to commercial shipping and to the neighbouring Gulf states," he said. He also pointed out the U.S. supports United Nations Security Council Resolution 541, calling for a cease-fire and urging all states to avoid actions menacing the freedom of navigation in international waters.

According to a January 23 Reuters report, the U.S. presently has a carrier group consisting of about eight vessels patrolling the Arabian Sea outside the Gulf, in conjunction with five vessels belonging to the U.S. Middle East force. The U.S. also has a standing agreement with the Omani Navy to use their bases in an emergency. And one observer has noted intensified military activity at the American base in Gwadar, Pakistan.

Naturally, with the American presidential election looming on the horizon, the end of a war, with which it was portrayed for the American public U.S. oil interests were protected, could only be to the incumbent president's advantage — powerful propaganda the Democrats might

find difficult to challenge.

Also some observers believe the U.S. wants to take revenge against Iran for the Oct. 23 murder of Marines in Lebanon; for the Dec. 12 bombings of American properties, including the U.S. Embassy, in Kuwait and for the Jan. 18 assassination of American University of Beirut President Malcolm Kerr. Others say the United States is smarting from the humiliation of old wounds festering, such as the American held hostage in Iran and the April 1982 destruction of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut that killed 63 people (17 Americans).

In an American television speech following the bombing at Marine headquarters in Lebanon, President Reagan emphasised that "those who directed this atrocity must be dealt justice and they will be."

Since the beginning of the Iraq-Iran war, Syria has been a staunch supporter of Iran, going so far as to shut down the Iraqi oil pipeline that runs across Syria to the Mediterranean. And, according to Western intelligence information, the Iranian terrorists who fuelled the attacks against American and French headquarters in Beirut

were based in Baalbek, in Syrian-controlled eastern Lebanon. The reports determined the Iranians acted under the auspices of Islamic Amal, an obscure radical Shiite Muslim group that emerged in early 1982 after a break with the more conservative Amal organisation headed by Nabih Berri.

Whether or not the West is very serious about its apparent tilt in support for Iraq, the fact remains that the war has always been much more than a territorial dispute. Several countries have encouraged prolonging the war for their own interests, attempting to drain the area of life for realisation of larger ambitions in the Gulf. In this sense, both Iraq and Iran are victims of the very countries which claim their loyalty, friendship and support.

The war must not be allowed to continue at the expense of precious natural and human resources in the area. The United Nations and the OIC must immediately step up negotiating efforts, to make both Iraq and Iran see they are being used as pawns in a very dangerous game: a game which has been played much too long.

The legacy of the Begin government's fantasy of 'Eretz Israel'

Israel waits to reap the whirlwind

By James MacManus

WITH grim humour a leader of the labour opposition in Israel remarked recently: "We are in grave danger of becoming an orange grove republic." The politician went on to discuss the economic crisis that promises to bring the government down sooner or later this year and remarked: "Our problem is not just economic. The real trouble is that in no other 'parliamentary democracy' are the two main political parties so deeply divided about the nature of the state they seek to rule."

This is the hidden dimension of the crisis that is unfolding in Israel. The immediate problem is that a narrow based and bankrupt coalition has deliberately embarked upon a recession in the hope that reduced living standards will curb consumption, cut imports and persuade financial institutions abroad to renew the country's credit lines.

The result has been that wage earners have lost 30 per cent of their purchasing power over the last three months while inflation in that period has been running at a projected annual rate of around 500 per cent.

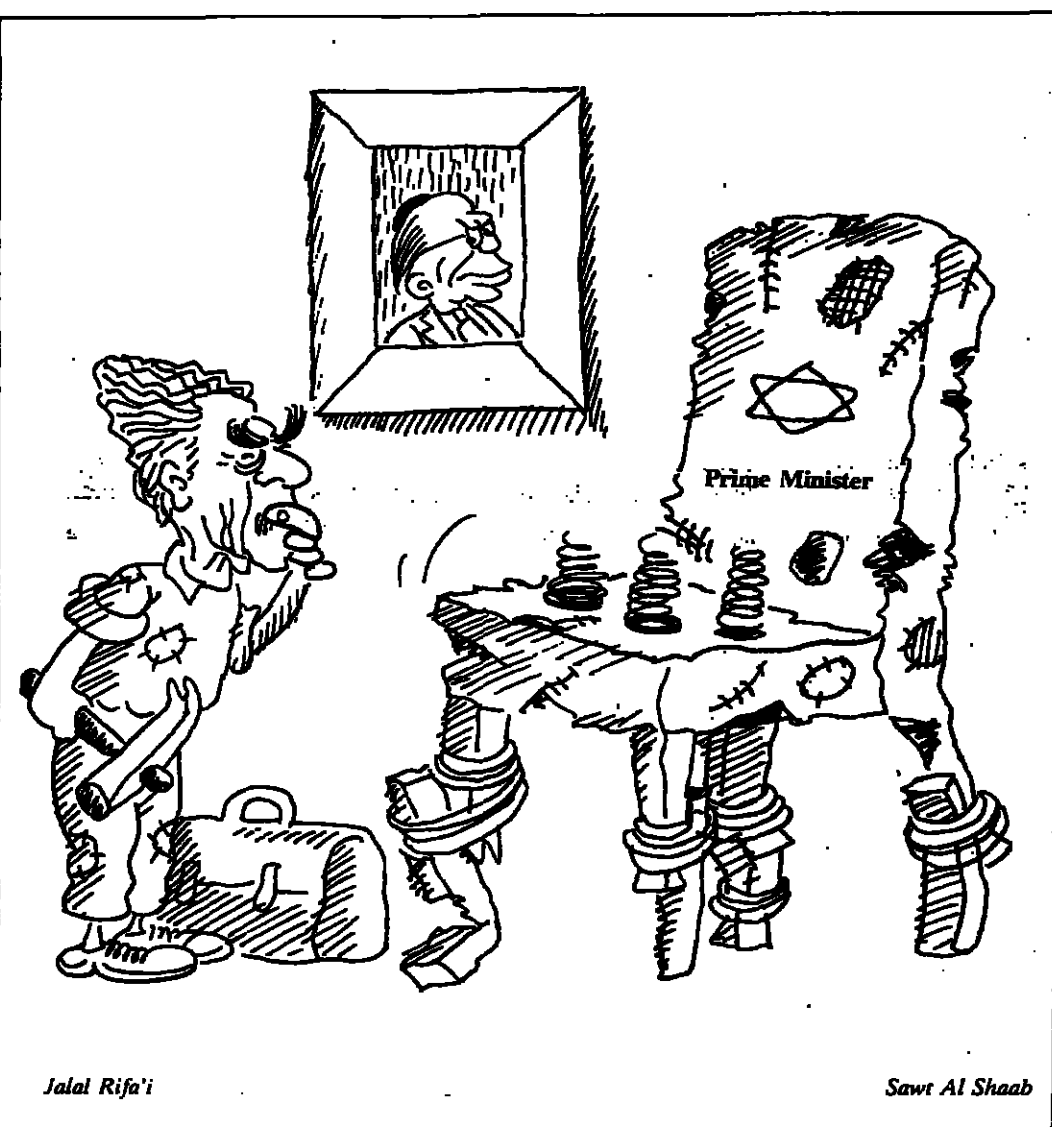
As Israel's Prime Minister Shamir's government drifts before this storm, long immersed doubts are beginning to bubble to the surface among those who placed most trust in the Likud coalition. There is talk of Israel's economic Dunkirk. An industrialist writes to a national newspaper urging his countrymen to recreate the "spirit of '48" when "Jews in Jerusalem hungered and fought the encircling Jordanian Arab Legion while their comrades died in perilous relief convoys from the coast and finally broke the blockade by hacking out a new road over the mountains" to the Holy City.

There is no sign that this generation of Israel can recreate the historic moment when their grandfathers seized and defended the hard won grant of statehood from the United Nations. Instead, seeing discontent with the decline in living standards has resurrected the questioning voices that were stifled for years by fake prosperity and clarion calls for patriotism.

Can Israel really afford Jewish settlements on the West Bank that are costing at least £142 million a year and probably closer to £500 million if one takes into account all the indirect costs? What is the army doing in South Lebanon at the cost of £700,000 a day when it is seemingly unable to prevent continuing casualties from guerrilla attacks? Why in a supposedly secular state do the religious parties have such a stranglehold over government — any government — that they can extort vast state funds for their small and intolerant constituency?

After all was it not that prophet of the Jewish state, Theodore Herzl, who wrote shortly before his death in 1904: "Shall we end up a theocracy? No. If faith keeps us united science makes us free... we shall keep them (the rabbis) in their temples, just as we shall keep our professional soldiers in their barracks."

The founding fathers compromised on this demand for a clear separation of synagogue and state. In spite of repeated parliamentary votes for lay institutions Israel has in many res-



pects become the theocratic state that Herzl repudiated.

One obvious example is the continuing refusal to recognise civil marriages in any of the three faiths that co-exist so uneasily in the Holy Land. Better evidence of the rabbi's grip on the body politics lies in the extraordinary power of the minority orthodox parties especially Agudat Israel. With just four parliamentarians to its name this party blocked the succession of Mr. Shamir as prime minister last year demanding that construction of an open air swimming pool in a religious neighbourhood of Jerusalem be halted. It was.

Official deference to such political blackmail deeply offends secular and moderately religious minded Israelis who still form the majority of the country's 3.4 million Jewish population (Israeli Arabs number about 700,000 which brings the overall population, excluding that of the occupied territories, to 4.1 million).

Despite the "vigorous democratic institutions" in Israel the rise of the religious right and the disproportionate power exercised by the orthodox community has contributed to the growing alienation between the public and the political process.

The Knesset, Israel's parliament, is widely held in contempt by people of every class and religious persuasion who regularly see only a handful of legislators slugging each other in an otherwise empty chamber.

Casual conversations in Jerusalem suggest that the alienation is deepening as the unravelling of the economy reveals the threadbare logic behind the government's entire programme. No one quite knows what will happen next. As a political commentator

for the Jerusalem Post observed last week: "Politics has entered the realm of mass psychology. It is very hard to predict how people will react to the almost daily loss of their earning power. The government just does not know what its supporters will do."

Mr. Shamir and his ministers have every right to be nervous. The very people who voted his predecessor, Menachem Begin into office in 1977 and again in 1981, that is the poorer and often oriental Jewish section of the populace, is waking up to the fact that they have been conned.

Mr. Begin convinced a majority of his countrymen that Israel had the resources to sustain domestic prosperity while continuing the "historic mission to recreate Eretz Israel" by absorbing the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It was for this that the Sinai Desert was finally returned to Egypt in April 1982 and that Lebanon was invaded in June of that year. The strategy was to take Egypt out of the Arab equation and smash the PLO. This in turn would demoralise and depopulate the West Bank to the point where the apathetic Palestinian inhabitants would accept second class status or leave.

Apart from the huge economic cost of this policy the political repercussions have steadily eroded the power of such "democratic institutions" as the cabinet and the Knesset. For Israel's agent on the West Bank has been its army which has been running the territory for 17 years and in so doing has intruded more and more into the political arena.

Total victory in the 1967 war propelled the Israeli army into politics by turning its generals such as Moshe Dayan into media

stars and by placing the military in control of territory five times larger than the state it was supposed to defend.

The Labour Party lost its grip over the military after 1967 and Mr. Begin was all too ready to give the army its head when he came to power ten years later. Men like General Sharon quickly climbed the political ladder and the military budget soared out of control.

Today, defence spending stands at £4.2 billion annually well over 25 per cent of the £15 billion budget. This colossal expenditure has deprived the government of funds for investment which is one reason why Israel has suffered a near zero growth rate for the last two years.

By contrast, Egypt refused to commit huge extra sums to defence in the seventies and concentrated on investment which is the principal reason for Cairo's annual eight per cent growth rate.

Israelis are beginning to recognise that "Eretz Israel" and its attendant follies are burdens that the country simply cannot afford. Mr. Begin's grandiose vision which his successor appears to endorse with enthusiasm has committed Israel to a domestic and foreign policy which is far beyond the resources of the state.

Until those policies are changed, and that means a change of government, no amount of budget trimming, trades union deals and wage cuts will end the crisis of confidence that has gripped Israel. Crisis is, of course, an overworked word in a country that has fought four wars in 36 years of statehood. But the latest and most blatant failure of the government may yet change popular assumptions as to why some of those wars have been fought. — The Guardian.

Trudeau uncertain of his peace crusade

By Paul Majendie
 Reuter

OTTAWA — Canadian leader Pierre Trudeau will take stock this week of his political future after domestic criticism of his globe-trotting peace crusade and suggestions it has run out of steam.

Since launching his ambitious peace initiative in October Mr. Trudeau has criss-crossed the world from Western Europe to the Commonwealth summit in Delhi, to Peking, Tokyo, Washington, the United Nations and East Europe.

But there are few signs of major progress in Mr. Trudeau's efforts to arrange a conference of the world's five nuclear powers and tone down superpower rhetoric.

There is only one place left on Mr. Trudeau's itinerary and that is Moscow.

Last week Mr. Trudeau opted for a hastily-arranged trip to East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Romania and won from their leaders general endorsement of his bid to halt the arms race.

East Germany agreed to set up a bilateral task force of disarmament experts but that was the only specific commitment he won and, wrapping up the visit in Bucharest, Mr. Trudeau said he would now be sitting down with his policy advisers to take stock.

"I suppose, depending on how that is answered, I will ask myself about my own future," he told reporters.

But Mr. Trudeau could be running out of time to make his decision. When re-elected in 1980, he pledged this would be his last term.

With a general election widely expected this year, he is under increasing pressure within his Liberal Party to declare his retirement plans.

Although at the start of his crusade critics accused Mr. Trudeau of being motivated more by domestic political considerations than concern for mankind, he won points at home for his strenuous efforts over the last four months as he toured the world.

But he ran into a welter of press criticism after his latest trip when, speaking at an international symposium in Switzerland he questioned whether Washington

would risk sparking world war III by using nuclear weapons to protect Western Europe against a Soviet conventional attack on Western Europe.

Opposition Tory leader Brian Mulroney said Mr. Trudeau was unsettling the Atlantic alliance and Canadian commentators accused him of being a soft spot in NATO who was tampering with the balance of nuclear weapons.

Leading columnist Charles Lynch wrote: "If Trudeau calls into question the very basis of NATO's nuclear strategy, on the ground the strategy is a charade, then surely he is tampering with the ultra-delicate balance of terror which is the most important charade in history."

Mr. Trudeau's return home prompted the press what he had achieved. The Toronto Star concluded: "Except for the fleeting possibility of a trip to Moscow, the peace initiative appears to have run out of steam."

Noting that President Reagan had wished Mr. Trudeau "God speed" with his initiative but little else, the paper conceded it was very difficult to judge the success of such an ambitious mission with very sweeping and abstract aims.

Mr. Trudeau appeared to agree with that estimate himself in Prague when he said "peace will not be built by dreams, nor will it be established by a single grand gesture."

After concluding talks with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu in Bucharest, he also declared: "The important thing is that we are both stating the necessity of political leaders of the middle powers... to involve themselves in the search for peace."

Canadian officials travelling with Mr. Trudeau were clearly pleased by British leader Margaret Thatcher's visit to Hungary last week. Mrs. Thatcher had adopted a sharply anti-Soviet stance when visiting Canada last year.

With Mr. Reagan in an election year and Mr. Andropov's health in question, the most valuable development could indeed be for middle powers to keep East-West contacts open.

Mr. Trudeau will clearly be assessing this week whether he wants to stay around to try to keep that process going.

LETTERS

It concerns us all

To the Editor:

In response to the article written by Marwan Muasher entitled "What really worries us are the 'day before'" (Jordan Times, Saturday, Jan. 28, 1984), it would be a truly sad state of affairs if most people in this part of the world shared Mr. Muasher's view on nuclear warfare and its importance and effect on the world.

I've lived in the Arab World for some years now and have learned the true meaning of the caring and concerns of the Arab people for others. They are not a selfish people.

Despite the constant struggle the Arabs have had to endure as a result of the Arab-Israeli conflict, they, more than any other people around the world sympathise with and support the concerns of their American and European friends.

Nuclear war and the arms race are no frivolous matter to be put on the back burner. It is a priority that has to be dealt with attentively as is the case with the Arab-Israeli conflict. I cannot sit this one out and neither will the Arab people.

Angilena V. Young
 Amman, Jordan

مكة من الحج



Every word was once a poem; Each began as a picture. Words are symbols of things; they are not the things themselves. It is unfortunate, in a way, that we learn words when we are so very young, for as we become adults we take these strange symbols for granted. By then there is little mystery in them for us. We are apt to think vaguely that words just happened to exist and were always so. We have no sharp feeling that they were born much as babies are; that they are vibrant with life and are always changing; that they grow up and often, like us, take on the greater responsibilities that go with maturity; and that, by the end of their days, they will have histories as long and distinguished as human biographies. Every Wednesday in this corner of the Jordan Times, we will trace the origins of some words trying to unearth the early stories behind them.

ITALICS: Is it not surprising to know that this word came from Italians? The Adline Press was among the earliest of the printing firms to become famous. It was noted for the scholarly standing of its books. The head of the organization, Aldo Manuzio, was keenly interested in Greek studies, and he invented a type that gave the slanting style to the Greek letters that are still in use today. This slanting style was something of a specialty of his. In 1501, the Adline Press put out an edition of Virgil and dedicated the work to Italy. They printed all of the volumes in sloping letters, and this style later became known as italics, which means "Italian" or "Italic". Hence our word italics. It was not until the middle of the 16th century, however, that italics was used to express emphasis.

JEST: The word jest originally meant a brave deed. In medieval France tales of feudal adventure and knightly prowess were an important part of the literature of the day. They were called *chansons de geste*, or "songs of deed". The French *gest* became the English *gest* or *jest* and was at first their word for a brave and famous deed or for the story of such a deed. By the 16th century, however, jest had degenerated and was used to mean mocking, a jeer, or banter. Thus a jest now means a joke.

MAGAZINE: a store house. The Arabian word *makhzan* meant storehouse, a place where grain and other supplies were kept. Originally books were called *magazines* since they were "storehouses" of knowledge. But by the 19th century the word applied only to periodicals. We use *magazine* in its original sense when we apply it to a repository for military arms, munitions, and such. In French the word *magasin* means a department store. — Ahmad Jabbar

IFAD is facing serious financial trouble

Will U.N.'s youngest agency survive?

By John Madeley

ROME — The newest U.N. agency, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), could be the next victim of the Reagan administration's distaste for multilateral aid agencies.

Whereas the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) was only reduced in size because of U.S. policies, IFAD's very existence is threatened. And for the developing world's rural poor, the consequences might be more disastrous than the IDA cutback.

Set up in 1977 to help implement the goal of the 1974 World Food Conference in Rome that "within a decade no child will go to bed hungry; no family will fear for its next day's bread", IFAD is the arm of the U.N. that "reaches out to the small farmer, the low-income fisherman and the rural poor", according to Canadian Minister of Agriculture Eugene Whelan.

IFAD lends to people that larger development projects tend to

bypass, performing a service that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard McCormack described at a recent meeting of the fund's governing council here as "unique". But the U.S. has given IFAD only \$90 million of the \$180 million that it pledged for its work over 1981-1983.

Several other Western countries have followed the U.S. lead and withheld some of their pledged money. Oil-exporting countries, which provide 40 per cent of IFAD's finances, are also behind with payments, and IFAD is almost \$300 million short of the \$1.1 billion due to be paid in by the end of 1983.

IFAD's governing council, made up of 140 countries, said that the completion of payments now due was necessary for IFAD's work in 1984.

Saudi Arabia, which pledged \$155 million, said it would pay the \$51 million that it owed in June 1984, and a number of oil countries followed suit. Mr. McCormack said President Reagan's decision on the fund would be announced in 1984.

Strangely, the U.S. seems to

admire IFAD and its work. Describing the fund as "essential" and "indispensable", Millicent Fenwick, U.S. ambassador to the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome, said IFAD was "one of the best" for the poorest.

IFAD has committed a total of \$1.8 billion for 138 projects in 77 countries, but has failed to make a name for itself in Washington. "IFAD is not an organization we know much about", said McCormack, "but from what we've seen we are impressed". Such comments by U.S. officials left delegates here baffled as to why the U.S. is withholding pledged funds.

With operating costs claimed to be only 5 per cent of commitments, IFAD appears to be one of the most cost-effective U.N. agencies. U.S. officials were particularly impressed that funds to projects in at least three countries — Guyana, Ecuador and Afghanistan — were suspended when it was found that the projects were not economically viable.

IFAD President Abdelmuhsin

Al-Sudary of Saudi Arabia believes the fund has helped 40 million of the poorest people in the Third World and that its projects could mean that an extra 20 million tonnes of food are grown each year. Pakistan's Food and Agriculture Minister, M.F. Janjua, said IFAD's significance "lies in the fact that their target is the removal of constraints of the landless labourers and small farmers".

In Pakistan, several hundred bank officials regularly ride motorbikes out to visit small farmers in isolated areas to offer them low-interest credit from Pakistan's Agricultural Development Bank, which is backed by a \$125 million IFAD loan. Since 1980, farmers in over 10,000 villages have received loans, and their food production appears to have increased.

Final negotiations on the replenishment of IFAD's funds for the 1984-86 period are scheduled for this February. With oil-exporting countries hinting that declining oil prices could mean a fall in their aid to the Third World, and U.S. officials divided about

what to do about continuing support for IFAD, the fund's future is in doubt.

Ironically, 1984 was the year by which the World Food Conference vowed to end hunger. "The failure to eradicate hunger within a decade raises questions such as: 'Have we forgotten our commitment: has the hunger issue become less compelling today?'" said Al-Sudary. "Some explanations are needed from all concerned."

"When \$750 billion a year are being spent on armaments, it should be possible to find \$1.2 billion for food production", noted H. Pereira Silva, Cape Verde's rural development minister.

Canada has spoken of "exploring alternatives" for financing IFAD. Italy and Norway have said they will pay their contributions for the next replenishment in advance. But all would prefer President Reagan to back IFAD, founded because of an initiative by a man who is now back in favour in Washington — then U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. — Earthscan feature.



Close your eyes, it's the Beatles

By Eliot Taylor
Reuter

TOKYO — The harmonies are perfect and the diction is not bad for a group of Japanese musicians who speak very little English. With the eyes closed a pop music fan would almost think it was The Beatles.

That is what customers are encouraged to do when they attend a performance of "Lady Bug" — a four-man group which for the past two years has been playing in a cramped bar in Tokyo's Roppongi entertainment district.

More than a decade after The Beatles broke up, Lady Bug members make their living by singing Beatles songs as much like the originals as they can manage. Faithful to musical history, the bar is called the Cavern Club, after the place in Liverpool, England, from where The Beatles emerged 22 years ago.

Replicas of the early Beatle guitars hang on the walls, together with scores of Beatle photographs and record covers.

The Lady Bugs wear their hair in the early Beatle style and dress in early Beatle-like collars and ties and black trousers.

"These guys could almost be the real thing," said one British resident of Tokyo who visits the club regularly. The act attracts more than 2,500 people in an average week, according to club manager Yurio Ochiai.

Lady Bug was founded by 33-year-old Yukio Kondoh, who started studying classical guitar at the age of nine.

Kondoh, who plays bass, piano and guitar, shares the vocal duties with guitarists Genshiro Kagiyama, 30, and 23-year-old Tadashi Nagasawa. Hiroshi Ohnishi, 29, plays the drums.

"I was 13 and I was walking along the street when I heard my first Beatles record. I was struck. The Beatles changed my life," Kondoh told Reuters through an interpreter.

He saw The Beatles perform live when they made a concert tour of Japan in 1966 and began playing professionally in rock bands from the age of 18.

When a Tokyo entrepreneur decided to open the club amid a wave of Beatles nostalgia after the murder of John Lennon in 1980, he approached Kondoh, who formed the Lady Bugs.

"I taught the other band members everything. The Beatles sound is so difficult, but we rehearsed solidly for two months," Kondoh said.

The club opened on Dec. 8, 1981, the first anniversary of Lennon's death. The group now has a repertoire of 120 Beatle songs and perform 60 of those each night.

Does it get boring playing the same songs so often?

"I still enjoy it because I love The Beatles," says the bearded Kondoh. "Every night it's a dif-

ferent audience and a different feeling. The band gets better all the time."

Kondoh said the band members have no plans to give up the job at the club despite the gruelling routine. But he would not pass up the chance, if offered, of a recording contract to record his own original music.

"I try to write my original material in English because it's a much better language for rock music than Japanese," Kondoh said.

Japan is now an essential tour



The "Beatles" at their golden times. From left are Paul, Harrison, Lennon and Ringo Starr.

Year of the Pig is chased out by the rat

By David Fraser
Reuter

HONG KONG — Chinese communities from Singapore to San Francisco are embarking on a week of festivity as the year of the pig is chased out by the rat.

Each community adds its own twist to the Lunar New Year celebrations which started on Feb. 1 and continue until Monday.

For most Chinese businessmen in Malaysia, the year of the rat symbolises prosperity but some take a dim view of 1984. Not because of big brother, but because puns on its pronunciation in Chinese can make "84" mean prosperity and then death.

Optimists reverse the numbers and say "48" means extreme prosperity.

Many families defy a government ban on fireworks and touch off a barrage at midnight to drive away evil spirits.

In Peking, capital of the ancestral homeland of more than 20 million overseas Chinese, the government has 600 million fireworks for sale.

In contrast to previous drab years, Chinese peasants are being encouraged to dust off dragons and limber up lions for the human centipede dances that are famous round the world.

Central Television is putting together a "National Unity Spectacular" featuring Hong Kong film stars.

"China's television network will

usher in the Lunar New Year with scenes of Taipei, Hong Kong and other cities," the New China News Agency said.

That's not all — Kung Fu Master Hai Deng will balance on one finger and the Hou family martial arts team will stand on an egg, correspondents report.

Across the Taiwan Strait, some astrologers warn the year of the rat will bring war and disaster. The nationalist government has stepped up military patrols of the strait in case Peking does anything inauspicious.

Singapore's government has decided that silence is golden. Within the prosperous island republic, where 77 per cent of the population are ethnic Chinese, fireworks are banned.

Hong Kong is replete with gaudy decorations. In Wanchai district, Chung Wai Ming grabs a break from selling new year's items in his family's shop to stress the importance of devotion to ancestors.

"We burn incense at the altar to give the ancestors food," he said, "and we dress their portraits beautifully."

Fortune-telling guides on the year of the rat, a hot item on Hong Kong newstands, mostly predict a bad year for the British colony, with a grim scenario of bankruptcy, violent crime and freak weather.

But a more upbeat pamphlet says that although things will get worse during winter, spring and

summer, life will again look rosy in November. Moreover, it predicts that 1997, when most of the colony is due to revert to China, holds no horrors.

Indonesia's four million Chinese are used to low-key celebrations because of ethnic sensitivities in the mainly-Muslim country. Most celebrate at home with family and friends.

The relatively wealthy community likes to keep a low profile after suffering anti-Chinese riots in the past. Though some shops will close on Feb. 2, it is not an official holiday.

The Philippines, which in 1983 held an open-air concert graced by a model of a giant pig, has in recent years drawn some 20,000 Chinese from Singapore and Hong Kong for the holidays.

They are welcomed heartily by relatives and even more eagerly by tourist officials who encourage them to bring prosperity and foreign exchange to Manila's gaming tables.

San Francisco's Chinatown has been preparing for the holiday with gusto befitting the biggest Chinese community outside Asia.

The year of the rat is well under way in Japan which adopts the Chinese animals but begins new year on Jan. 1.

The rat is popular in Japan as a symbol of industrious achievement. An old saying holds that the rat is good luck, for when there are rats about, there must be plenty of food nearby.

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Jordan International Car Rally set for July end

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The fourth Jordan International Car Rally is set to take place July 26-27 and preparations for the gruelling event are under way, director of the Royal Automobile Club (RAC) of Jordan said here Tuesday.

Derek Ledger told a press conference that the rally which is co-sponsored by the Amman Marriott Hotel and the Pepsi Cola company will start from the Marriott Hotel at 8 a.m. July 26 to reach Petra; then back again to reach the hotel at 8 p.m. The same route will be taken again on the second day of the event.

The rally will follow a route broadly along the desert highway as far as Mohammadiyah near Uzeiza. Competitive stages will be held on desert tracks to the east of the Queen Alia International Airport highway and Desert highway at or near the following points:

Alia employee housing estate, Zeezia, Khan Az Zabib, Swaqa, Qatranah, Wadi Abyad, Al Hasa, Husseiniah, Uzeiza, Ubrub and Wadi Musa. A regrouping and repair halt will take place at Petra where the Petra Forum Hotel will be used as a base.

The rally will then return to Amman using the same route in the reverse direction and will reach the Marriott Hotel. The competing cars will be impounded in a *parc ferme* until the restart on Friday July 27. The same route will be followed to Petra and back, the finish being again at the Marriott hotel.

A total of 44 competitive stages will be run totalling about 500 kilometres out of a rally total of approximately 1000 kilometres. Detailed route information will be made available to competitors one month before the rally giving them ample time to practice.

This international rally which will be held for the second consecutive year is within the Middle East six-event championship which includes also the rallies of Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and Dubai.

According to Ledger, the est-

ablishment of the Middle East championship is significant in that top class drivers and cars will be attracted to participate in the rally and the World Rally Press and TV will give much more coverage than in the past, which will result in the good name and tourist attraction of Jordan being widely commented upon throughout the world.

More than 2000 people will be involved in organising the July event — most of them will be placed at each control point to time the competitors at the start and finish of the various competitive sections, all those people will be fully trained by the organisers at a series of lectures and practical training sessions.

The communications system during the rally is provided by the Royal Jordan Society of Radio Amateurs. Radio communication is established between the rally headquarters office at the Marriott Hotel and all points along the route as far as Petra. Further radio links are established at the start and finish of each competitive section. The officials in charge of timing are also in touch with each other by field telephones.

The Public Security forces will provide a large number of police with vehicles to patrol the route, close various roads, control spectators etc. as well as being responsible for traffic control along the rally route.

The Civil Defence will supply ambulances and fire-fighting vehicles at all the competitive stages of the rally. The ambulances are on standby throughout the rally and all hospitals near the route are notified to be ready to accept any injuries. Many doctors volunteer their services to be at strategic locations so that any injured persons can receive immediate treatment

before being transported to hospital. In the unlikely event of a serious injury an ambulance helicopter from the Royal Jordan Air Force is on constant standby throughout the rally. Fortunately these very sophisticated medical services have never been called upon up till now.

The results team stationed at the rally office have the use of a computer to produce all the latest results. Times are transmitted by radio from the various locations along the route and latest information can then be transmitted back for competitors information.

Results bulletins will be produced every two hours for the press, radio and TV and for the information of the general public.

Facilities for the press and media will include a fully equipped press office complete with telephones, telex, typewriters etc. as well as a constant supply of refreshments for those on duty. The press office will be for the exclusive use of bona-fide journalists and broadcasters who will be supplied with special badges. A constant flow of information bulletins will keep all journalists fully supplied with the latest information.

Facilities will exist for journalists to visit various locations on the rally route during the event and a helicopter will be available throughout the rally for aerial photography.

Arrangements will also be made to have various competitors available for interview — especially the drivers coming from abroad

and it will also be possible to try a rally car and to be driven at rally speeds by some of the expert drivers so that those brave enough can see exactly what is involved.

The ministries of information, tourism, finance and customs are all closely involved and provide very valuable services including publicity both inside the Kingdom and abroad and in arranging facilities for foreign competitors to bring their cars and spare parts into the country for the rally.

Various pieces of equipment that must be prepared for the running of the rally includes the following: 75 digital clocks for timing, 36 radio transmitters, 40 field telephones, 120 control signs, over 2000 separate time cards and 500 records sheets, 500 competition numbers and official identity panels for competitors and officials cars, 500 identity badges for press, doctors, officials, guests etc. The supply of over 1000 meals during the event, the printing in full colour of over 10,000 programmes, regulations books, posters etc. and many many other items including the provision of at least 20 cars for guests, journalists and VIP's.

Attending the press conference were, Haile Aguilier, the general manager of the Marriott Hotel co-sponsoring the rally, Peter Salah, under-secretary Ministry of Information, Ghassan Asfour, Abdullah Khalil, Khalil Adwan from the organising committee and a number of press representatives.

Banker held on fraud suspicion

BRUSSELS (R) — The head of a top Belgian bank is being held on suspicion of involvement in an alleged tax fraud at the Antwerp Soccer Club, of which he is president, the Brussels public prosecutor's spokesman said Monday.

Edouard Wauters, 51, chairman of Kredietbank NV, was detained on Saturday on a warrant alleging he falsified documents to avoid tax, the spokesman told reporters.

A Kredietbank spokesman

said: "Mr. Wauters has been arrested as president of the Royal Antwerp Football Club and it has nothing to do with Kredietbank." Officials at the club were not immediately available for comment.

The prosecutor's spokesman said Wauters, a former Belgian soccer international, was suspected of having "laundered" money for the transfer fees of footballers in association with Jef Jurina, another former soccer international.

Pfaff beats Tanvier in Chicago tennis

CHICAGO, Illinois (AP) — West German's Eva Pfaff downed Catherine Tanvier of France, while England's Ann Hobbs and Australian Wendy Turnbull teamed up for a doubles victory Monday in the first round of the \$150,000 Virginia Slims of Chicago tournament.

Also in the opening round, seventh-seeded Kathy Rinaldi knocked off 14-year-old Stephanie Rehe in three sets, while no. 6 seed Bonnie Gadusek dispatched Mary Lou Piatek in straight sets, 6-1, 6-2.

In the Rinaldi triumph, the second set was tied 3-3 when the more experienced Rinaldi started forcing fellow American Rehe into making mistakes on the unfamiliar indoor surface. She eventually won 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Pfaff won her match 6-4, 6-4, while in doubles, Hobbs and Turnbull defeated Marcella Mesker and Beverly Mould 4-6, 6-1 and 6-4. Also Monday, South Africa's Rosalyn Fairbanks and American Candy Reynolds beat Gadusek and Wendy White 7-5 and 6-1.

Top seed Pam Shriver was to play Virginia Ruzici, of Romania, and no. 8 Carling Bassett, of Canada, was to face Andrea Leand in other first-round action Monday.

The tournament, being played at the University of Illinois at Chicago, winds up next Sunday.

England looks for English players in Australia for replacement

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — The England cricket team may look to Englishmen playing in Australia to replace injured fast bowlers.

Manager Alan Smith said he had made some early advances to English players now in Tasmania to find out if they would be available and could be brought to New Zealand in time for the third test match which starts here on Friday.

Rzich would not name the players but team sources said they were former England representative Derek Pringle, although he was said to be unfit and so unavailable, and 24-year-old Middlesex medium pace bowler Neil Williams.

5 hockey players banned from Olympic Games

SARAJEVO, Yugoslavia (AP) — Less than 24 hours before the first face off the Winter Games, the Olympic movement set new rules for what constitutes a hockey amateur — disqualifying five players who have played in North America's National Hockey League (NHL).

Canada's Mark Morrison and Don Dietrich, Italy's Jim Corsi and Rich Bragnalo, and Austria's Greg Holst on Monday were barred from the games for their time with the NHL.

The bitter feelings arising from the hockey dispute may linger well beyond this Olympiad. But, in the words of an angry but resigned negotiator for the Canadian players, Alan Eagleson: "Now it's over with, so let's play."

The formal opening ceremony was scheduled for Wednesday, but so many skiing, skating, bobsled and luge events have been scheduled that the hockey tournament was to open a day early.

The United States team, defending the gold medal it won in 1980, was to play Canada, and the Soviet Union, widely favoured for this year's gold, was facing off against Poland.

In the mountains surrounding this Yugoslav city of 400,000, the skiers, bobsledders and lugers continued their time trials.

On Monday, Pirmin Zurbriggen of Switzerland turned in the fastest men's downhill time on a crusty mount Bjelsanica course. The giant slalom specialist was clocked in 1:46.84, just ahead of American Bob Johnson at 1:47.06.

Both times were considerably better than Sunday's times and

reflected a freezing-up on Bjelsanica, where the medal run takes place Thursday.

The Swiss also turned in the best time on the women's downhill, as 17-year-old Michaela Figini, who won the last World Cup downhill at Megeve, France, finished in 1:13.90. The women's downhill is set for Mount Jahorina.

The hockey quarrel began more than three months ago when the U.S. Olympic Committee threatened to question the amateur status of four Canadian players, including the two who were eventually banned.

On Sunday, Finland jumped into the dispute. With one of its own players — goaltender Hannu Kampure — declared ineligible, the Finns protested the status of 11 other players.

"The USA made the snowballs and gave them to Finland to throw," said Eagleson, international hockey negotiator for hockey Canada, vowing angrily that he wouldn't be performing any "favours" for America's Amateur Hockey Association in the future.

But Larry Johnson, general manager of the U.S. hockey team, insisted the Finns acted on their own. He added: "Our interpretation is that if you signed a pro contract, you are a pro. It's that simple."

Morrison played in nine games with the NHL's New York Rangers two years ago. Dietrich skated with the Chicago Black Hawks this season. Corsi played with Edmonton and Calgary last year.

Bragnalo appeared in parts of two seasons with the Washington Cap-

itals and Holst played seven games between 1975 and 1977 as a Ranger.

Soviet torpedo sparks call for rules change

Meanwhile, a controversial torpedo-shaped Soviet bobsled will lead to a radical revision of the rules to prevent engineers from running away with the sport, the president of the International Bobsled Federation (IBF) predicted Monday.

"The rules are too vague. I hear of all sorts of crazy innovations the constructors are planning because of this, and it could kill the sport," said Klaus Kotter of West Germany.

"We must stop this. We want our technical staff to set specific qualifications for the new sleds, so we can put everyone on a uniform, equal standard."

Kotter said it's "too late to do something this season, and it would be unfair at this stage to introduce new rules banning a sled."

All design innovations will be studied in the next few weeks, and decisions will be announced at the IBF congress in Calgary, Canada, in May. Calgary is the site of the 1988 Winter Games.

The Soviet introduced their aerodynamic sled earlier this season, drawing mixed reaction from specialists. Experts say the sled threatens the traditional East German supremacy in the sport.

The Soviet sled has a one-piece body centred on the axle that holds the front runners. Its steering mechanism is a mystery.

Odizor beats Wilkison at Memphis

MEMPHIS (R) — Nigeria's Ndaka Odizor beat Tim Wilkison of the U.S. on his third match point 7-5, 7-6, (8-6), in Tuesday's opening round of the \$250,000 U.S. National Indoor Tennis Championships.

Top-seeded and defending champion Jimmy Connors of the U.S. and second-seeded Yannick Noah of France are not due to play until Wednesday.

Connors, winner of this title a record six times, pulled out of an exhibition match in Toronto over the weekend with a pinched nerve in the neck. But organisers of the week-long Memphis tournament

said that they had received word that he still planned to play here.

Odizor, 25, now living in Houston, made every first serve in the tiebreaker. He built a 5-3 lead, but Wilkison fought back to 5-5.

The Nigerian broke for 6-5 with a running forehand but Wilkison came back to save matchpoint with a backhand. Odizor replied with a service winner then sneaked in a deftly-handled backhand to wrapup the 110-minute match.

Odizor won his first professional tournament in Taipei in November. He earlier gained attention by reaching the fourth round at Wimbledon after a first-round win over Guillermo Vilas of Argentina.

Everton sweeps into last 16 of F.A. Cup

LONDON (R) — Everton stormed into the last 16 of the English Football Association (F.A.) Cup when they trounced Gillingham 3-0 Monday night after being held to goalless draws in two previous clashes.

First Division Everton effectively settled the outcome of the fourth round second reply against their Third Division opponents by firing three goals in an 11-minute burst in the first half.

Kevin Sheedy put Everton ahead in the 24th minute and scored again in the 38th — five minutes after Adrian Heath netted the second.

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Ethiopia expels members of U.S. embassy staff

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — The Ethiopian government has expelled members of the small U.S. embassy staff after the official radio said people distributing anti-government leaflets were working "with imperialism to derail the Ethiopian revolution".

The expulsions, further souring already poor U.S.-Ethiopian relations, also come amid rising tension between Ethiopia and the government of Somalia.

A U.S. embassy official, reached by telephone in Addis Ababa, confirmed the expulsions, but refused to say how many of the seven-person staff were expelled or to give Ethiopia's reasons, if any were offered.

The expulsions were disclosed two days after Ethiopian radio confirmed that 18 people had been arrested for distributing anti-government leaflets in the capital.

Somalia has alleged that Ethiopian jets have attacked villages

near the Ethiopian border twice in the past 10 days and some Western diplomats regard these attacks as a response to alleged Somali support for insurgents who have attacked the main railway linking Ethiopia to the Red Sea at Djibouti.

Western diplomats interviewed in mid-1983 had said the strategic Horn of Africa nation of 32 million was moving closer to Moscow.

One envoy said then that "there's hardly a ministry that doesn't have Soviet advisers in it. The army and security forces are riddled with Soviets." The diplomat, like others in the capital, refused to be identified.

There are more than 40 Soviet

diplomats accredited to their embassy and 3,000 military and several hundred civilian advisers.

In a rare news conference with Western reporters last June, Mr. Mengistu accused the administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan of "fully supporting apartheid, Zionism and racism, which are the universal enemies of mankind."

Ethiopia's warm relations with the United States deteriorated sharply with the 1974 overthrow of Emperor Haile Selassie. The United States cut off arms shipments to Ethiopia during the Somali invasion of the Ogaden region in 1977 and Mr. Mengistu turned to Moscow. The Soviets, who had been a major backer of Somalia, sided with Ethiopia.

In 1980, the U.S. ambassador was asked to leave.

A Western diplomat, interviewed last June in Ethiopia, said of U.S.-Ethiopian ties: "They go from poor to very bad. Right now they are very bad."

Human rights chief seeks to outlaw torture

GENEVA (R) — The United Nations Human Rights Commission opened Monday and Assistant Secretary-General Kurt Hurner called for faster action on a proposed convention to make torture an international crime.

In a speech formally opening the six-week session, Mr. Hurner told delegates: "It remains of the greatest importance that the convention against torture, including its implementation mechanism, is finalized in the near future so that it can become part and parcel of the body of International Law concerning human rights."

Delegates said there had been encouraging progress in a sub-committee trying to hammer out a draft torture convention, which has been under discussion here since 1978. There was still no agreement over a proposed clause that nations should accept on-the-spot enquiries when torture allegations were made.

Mr. Hurner, who heads the U.N.'s Human Rights Centre, outlined to delegates of the 43-nation commission and representatives of some 50 human rights groups, several potential new areas for U.N. action.

These include:

— Provision of U.N. assistance to governments to help them ensure full respect for human rights. This could take the form of training for police or judiciary.

— Providing regional advisers to help governments with the implementation of human rights conventions and drafting of national legislation.

— Making new arrangements so that urgent action could be taken in response to human rights violations or threats of them.

— That the commission address itself to the complaint, often voiced by the West, that U.N. human rights activities are harsher on some countries than others and that not all situations of similar gravity are selected for action.

Nicaragua to hold election as planned

MANAGUA (R) — The Nicaraguan government Monday reversed a decision to postpone preparations for general elections set for next year.

The Council of State's spokesman on electoral matters said on radio a resolution by the council on Saturday to postpone the preparations indefinitely was no longer in effect.

The spokesman, Manuel Eugarríos, gave no reason for the reversal.

Sources close to the government said the international community and the Nicaraguan people had wrongly interpreted Saturday's decision to mean elections would not be held.

Eugarríos said the draft of an electoral law due to be presented to the Council of State would now go forward on Wednesday.

The government junta said in a communiqué also read on the radio that the official date for the elections would be announced on

Feb. 21 as originally scheduled.

The Council of State, a non-election parliamentary body created after a popular revolution in 1979, said on Saturday it would postpone the electoral process indefinitely until the facts surrounding two air attacks last week against Nicaragua were known.

Four soldiers died in the attacks on northwestern Chinandega province and 10 were injured.

Nicaragua said Honduran Air Force jets staged the raids but Honduras denied the claim.

U.K. increases protection for Indian diplomats

LONDON (AP) — Protection for all Indian diplomats in Britain was stepped up by British authorities Monday after Indian assistant

consular commissioner Ravindra Mhatre was found shot to death.

Home Secretary Leon Brittan said Monday that Indian diplomats in Britain would be given "enhanced protection" in a bid to thwart further attacks by a mysterious Kashmiri group that is believed to have kidnapped and murdered Mr. Mhatre.

Mr. Brittan did not say what form this would take but told the House of Commons that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government is determined to show there was no place for terrorism and violence.

Police who have been questioning members of the estimated 100,000 Kashmiri community in Britain for clues to the Kashmir Liberation Army which claimed responsibility for Mr. Mhatre's abduction said they have traced a woman who said she saw the kidnapping.

Mr. Mhatre, 48, assistant commissioner at the Indian consulate in Birmingham, an industrial city in central England, disappeared after leaving work to go home on Friday.

His body was found Sunday night dumped in the driveway of a dairy farm near Hinkley, 30 miles (48 kilometres) northeast of Birmingham, by farmer's wife Joyce Tallis.

Tom Meffen, assistant chief constable of the West Midlands, said Monday night that Mr. Mhatre had been shot twice at close range, once in the head and once in the upper part of his body.

Mr. Meffen said 100 detectives working in liaison with officers from other areas had been assigned to look for the killers.

He said the woman witness claimed to have seen a group of people forcing Mr. Mhatre into a car near his home at Bartley Green in Birmingham on Friday.

The British newspaper the Guardian reported Tuesday that more than 20 members of the Kashmiri community in Birmingham and neighbouring areas are being interviewed by police.

A former Indian High Commissioner (ambassador) to Britain, N.G. Goray, said Monday he had received a tape-recorded threat from Kashmir Liberation

Army during his tenure in London.

Mr. Goray added in an interview with the United News of India in Pune, about 60 miles (100 kilometres) southeast of Bombay, that it was "shameful" Scotland Yard had not traced Mr. Mhatre's killers. He condemned what he called the "inefficiency of Scotland Yard and the British government."

India, Pakistan and Britain have all condemned Mr. Mhatre's slaying. But Amin Quereshi, leader of the 50,000-member separatist Azad Kashmir Muslim Association, said in Bradford, Yorkshire, on Monday that the murderers would have "much support" among those seeking independence for Kashmir, now two-thirds controlled by India and one-third by Pakistan.

The Kashmir Liberation Army sent a letter to Reuters News Agency Friday claiming responsibility for Mr. Mhatre's abduction. The group threatened to shoot him unless the Indian government freed several prisoners including Kashmiri separatist Mohammad Maqbool Bhatt, who is awaiting execution.

Australia rules out full ties with N. Korea

SEOUL (R) — Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke said Monday Australia would not restore full relations with North Korea until it observed internationally accepted standards of behaviour.

Mr. Hawke, on a four-day official visit, told a banquet given in his honour by President Chun Doo Hwan: "We have been shocked and dismayed by the North Korean government's unbecomingly overseas activities."

Two North Korean agents were convicted by a British court of setting off a bomb which killed 17 South Koreans, including four cabinet ministers, in Rangoon on Oct. 9.

Australia and North Korea withdrew their missions from each

other's capitals in 1975, although technically diplomatic ties remain in force.

"We have informed North Korea that until it shows that it is prepared to abide by internationally accepted standards of behaviour, we will be unable to consider any proposal for a restoration of its relationship with Australia," Mr. Hawke said.

But he added that Australia looked forward to a time when Pyongyang could have what he called practical and sensible relations with all nations.

Mr. Hawke said Australia had followed with interest the recent proposal by North Korea for peace talks with the United States and, for the first time, South

Korea.

"We would hope that a way could be found by which both North Korea and the Republic of Korea might be able to commence face to face negotiations," he said.

South Korea has poured cold water on the idea of three-way talks and has repeated its call for direct discussions between the leaders of the two Koreas.

Mr. Hawke said conditions on the Korean peninsula had contributed to tension between the superpowers and this made a solution more urgent.

"In saying that, I am particularly mindful that we have returned to an era of distrust and suspicion between the superpowers," he said.

South Africa does not expect revolution

CARETOWN, South Africa (AP) — "There is going to be no revolution in South Africa" and the world should abandon expectations of major racial conflict in the country, Deputy Foreign Minister Louis Nel said Monday.

Mr. Nel said South Africa, under a white-minority government, is moving "from domination to joint decision-making" among racial groups.

Speaking to foreign reporters, Mr. Nel described as steps toward racial harmony the development of 10 tribal homelands for blacks and the convening late this year of the first three-chamber parliament including Asians and coloureds — people of mixed race.

Both the homelands and the

three-chamber parliament, where whites will retain a controlling majority, have been rejected by black-majority leaders seeking to replace apartheid — legalised race-separation — with a one-man, one-vote democracy.

"Democracy has failed in Africa," Mr. Nel said, because of ethnic power struggles that led to one-party states and military dictatorships. He said Africa "is changing for the worse" while South Africa "is changing for the better."

"South Africa has become the victim of an international verbal destabilisation campaign ... the word has become the weapon," Mr. Nel said. "The time has come

for the Western world and all reasonable observers to reconsider their perception of apartheid, to reconsider their expectations of South and southern Africa."

"South Africa is a society in transition, a society dynamically on the move," Mr. Nel said.

He said the government sought that "every citizen, regardless of race, colour or creed, will enjoy freedom and equitable political rights."

The government considers the 21-million black majority as citizens of the homelands and not of South Africa itself.

Four homelands have been declared independent. No country besides South Africa recognises them as independent states.

Spacewalk to go ahead despite setbacks

CAPE CANAVERAL (R) — The space shuttle Challenger, which put three doomed objects into orbit in four days, will Tuesday send two men into the void without lifelines to become temporary human satellites.

"I'll be the smallest spaceship in the history of man," astronauts Bruce McCandless said before the mission, which has been dogged by failures.

Two identical \$30 million satellites were written off when they ended up the wrong orbits after being launched from Challenger's cargo hold on Friday and Monday.

A balloon, designed to serve as a mock satellite for target practice, blew up on Sunday when it was jettisoned from Challenger.

Despite the problems, shuttle

officials decided to go ahead with their plans for Mr. McCandless and Robert Stewart to become the first men to venture into space without lifelines.

Wearing the standard astronaut spacesuit, each man will also be equipped with a rocket backpack allowing free flight in orbit.

Mr. McCandless and Mr. Stewart are due to spend almost five hours outside Challenger. But space agency officials are taking no chances and the astronaut will be restricted to about 100 metres from the mother ship.

Every part of the new rocket pack which could possibly fail has an identical backup system. Officials — and the astronauts — are confident that neither man will be marooned in space.

If all else failed, they said, Challenger could chase after the men and pick them up. The backpacks, which cost \$30 million to develop, have only enough propellant to carry them a few thousand metres, away from the shuttle.

The astronauts, who will also fly their personal rockets on Thursday, will be testing the backpacks and procedures which will be used in April in an attempt to retrieve and repair a disabled satellite.

But space officials ruled out a rescue mission for the Challenger's two lost communications satellites, one for Indonesia and the other for the U.S. Western Union Company. Both are apparently working but they have gone into useless orbits.

Filipino investigator denies witness had Communist ties

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The head of the Philippines' top investigative body testified Tuesday he was not aware of any Communist ties to Rosendo Cawigan, a key government witness who claims Communists recruited him to kill Benigno Aquino.

National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Director Jolly Bugarin told a fact-finding body investigating the Aquino assassination that Mr. Cawigan had been an NBI "confidential agent" since 1971 and that a background check showed no links between him and insurgents.

A former Aquino bodyguard, Mr. Cawigan so far is the only witness to have supported military claims that the assassination was a Communist scheme. Mr. Cawigan had told the board earlier both he and alleged assassin Rolando Galman were recruited by Communists to kill Aquino but that Mr. Galman got to the opposition leader first.

Mr. Aquino was killed Aug. 21 while under military guard at the

Manila Airport upon returning from self-imposed exile in the United States.

Mr. Aquino family members claim that Mr. Galman, who was immediately gunned down by soldiers after he allegedly shot Mr. Aquino in the back of the head, was set up and that a soldier had shot Mr. Aquino.

Asked why the NBI could accept an agent a man who openly admits having killed more than 30 people in his life, Bugarin said: "In the fight against crime, we also use criminals." He later corrected his remarks, saying he meant the bureau uses "intelligence information from criminals" in combating crime.

Mr. Bugarin said he designated Mr. Cawigan as "confidential agent" following representations made by Mr. Aquino himself when the opposition leader was still in the Senate and wanted to employ Mr. Cawigan as a bodyguard.

Mr. Bugarin added, however, that Mr. Cawigan never was on the NBI's payroll.

Warsaw Pact countries begin exercises in Czechoslovakia

VIENNA (R) — Motorised, infantry and air force units from the Soviet Union, Hungary and Czechoslovakia began manoeuvres in the Western regions of Czechoslovakia Monday, the official Ceteke News Agency reported.

Ceteke said the purpose of the Warsaw Pact exercises, which continue until Feb. 11, will be "to test the co-operation between commanders and units of the three allied armies in conditions of present-day warfare."

It did not say if the manoeuvres would include exercises in nuclear warfare, but said they called for "high morale and political commitment, discipline and efforts to carry out all combat tasks."

Last autumn Czechoslovakia announced it had accepted a Soviet plan to deploy medium-range nuclear missiles there and in East Germany to counter U.S. deployment of new medium-range missiles in Western Europe.

Eruption on Mount St. Helens may have begun, experts say

VANCOUVER, Washington (AP) — Small earthquakes rattled Mount St. Helens Tuesday after a potentially explosive eruption that could last for days apparently began with little more than a puff of ash and a small avalanche, scientists say.

A slight rockslide from the east side of a massive lava dome in the crater Monday night sent debris into the eastern rim. Melting some snow but causing no mudflow, said Thom Corcoran of the U.S. forest

service.

"Scientists flying over with infra-red equipment saw it," Mr. Corcoran told a news conference late Monday. "This probably marks the onset of the expected eruptive pulse. Further activities could include rock avalanches, slow lava extrusion and small explosions over the next few days."

Mount St. Helens also sent up "a baby plume" containing a bit of volcanic ash which drifted to the east, he added.

Reagan appeal for bipartisanship gets cool response

By Michael Posner

WASHINGTON (R) — Despite President Reagan's election-year call for a bipartisan effort to tackle soaring U.S. budget deficit and other urgent problems, members of Congress appear to be hardening their positions along party lines.

A Reuter survey of Democratic and Republican congressional leaders and a cross-section of other members shows that little unity has developed on key issues, including the deficits and the U.S. military involvement in Lebanon.

In his State of the Union address to Congress on Jan. 25, Mr. Reagan asked for "a rebirth of bipartisan co-operation" on domestic and foreign concerns.

In its survey, Reuters asked members whether troops should be withdrawn from Lebanon, what would happen to Mr. Reagan's aid request for Central America, whether deficits would be cut much, and which party would win next November's general election.

On Lebanon, the survey predictably showed wide divisions, with Republicans rallying around Mr. Reagan and Democrats critical.

"Everywhere I go these days I hear the same thing: 'Get our boys out of Lebanon,'" said House Speaker Thomas O'Neill.

"This feeling is reflected among the members of Congress," the veteran Massachusetts Democrat told Reuters. "The administration has been overly optimistic about progress in Lebanon. There hasn't been any progress."

The House, controlled by Democrats, is expected to approve a non-binding resolution as early as this week calling for prompt withdrawal of the 1,600 U.S. Marines serving in the Multinational Force in Lebanon.

But the Republican-dominated Senate will almost certainly reject the measure and Mr. Reagan has said he will ignore it.

"I believe the president has every desire to get our troops out of Lebanon as soon as possible and will do everything he can to accomplish this task," said House Republican Leader Robert Michel of Illinois.

"It is not the responsibility of the Congress to dictate the specifics of foreign policy, and it would be regrettable if the house, in particular, took action aimed at forcing our troops out of Lebanon."

Senate Republican Leader Howard Baker of Tennessee said he foresaw no change in a compromise bill passed last September letting the Marines stay in Lebanon until March 1985.

Assistant Senate Democratic

Leader Alan Cranston of California, one of eight contenders for his party's 1984 presidential nomination, said: "If the Marines are not out soon, Congress will force Reagan to withdraw them."

But some Democrats doubt Congress can force Reagan's hand. "It may be difficult to force the President to remove the troops," said Representative Thomas Foley of Washington State.

On Central America, Mr. Reagan wants some \$3.5 billion in economic and military aid in the 1984-85 financial years, including about \$1 billion for El Salvador which many members want to make conditional on progress on human rights.

Some do not want any more military help for the U.S.-backed Salvadoran government, which is battling leftist guerrillas.

"I am opposed to any further military aid to El Salvador — period," Sen. Cranston declared. Mr. O'Neill said: "At this time I cannot support any military aid."

But House Republican Leader Michel said Congress should follow the Kissinger commission recommendation of \$8 billion in aid for the region over the next five years. "It is difficult to predict at this point precisely how much aid would be involved," he said.

Assistant Senate Republican Leader Ted Stevens of Alaska

said: "I think there will be a substantial increase in aid, but I don't think the volume recommended by (former Secretary of State Henry) Kissinger will be approved."

There is also sharp division on the deficits in the \$180 billion range projected by Mr. Reagan for the next few years.

Mr. Reagan has asked for a bipartisan accord between Congress and the White House to cut the deficits by \$100 billion over three years. He calls this a "downpayment."

"We'll make the downpayment," said Sen. Stevens, but he added that Congress would not pass a tax increase, so the deficit cut would have to come from spending reductions.

Mr. O'Neill asked: "If the president is serious about cutting the deficit, why doesn't he simply propose a balanced budget?"

But Mr. Foley, differing with Mr. O'Neill, said: "My expectation is we will agree on at least the \$100 billion — not an adequate amount."

Mr. Michel predicted that "it will be difficult for Congress to take action on the deficit in any substantial way when one considers the highly partisan atmosphere of an election year."

Mr. Michel, discussing the Nov. 6 elections for all 435 House seats

and 33 of the 100 Senate seats, said:

"I feel confident that Republicans will pick up seats in the House, and I hope that number of new seats will be sufficient for us to regain some marginal control over legislative action."

Mr. Michel, Mr. Baker, Mr. Stevens and other Republicans said they believed their party would retain control of the Senate, where there are now 55 Republican and 45 Democratic members.

But Mr. O'Neill forecast, "the Democrats will take the Senate in 1984. We will retain our big lead in the House," where the Democrats have a 100-seat margin over the Republicans.

Some Democrats are less certain about the Senate. "I can't say we will regain control of it," said Mr. Foley.

"Clearly Democrats will keep the House," said Representative William Ratchford, a Connecticut Democrat. He puts the chances of regaining the Senate at 50-50.

Senator Howard Metzenbaum, an Ohio Democrat, said the new Senate would be 51-49 Democratic, or else evenly split 50-50.

Georgia Democratic Representative Elliott Levitas did not see much change in the next Congress. "The Democrats will gain some seats in the Senate but will not be in control," he said.



Kidnappers free woman

SIENA, Italy (R) — Patricia Bauer, a business executive, was freed in good health three months after being kidnapped, police said. The source would not say whether a ransom had been paid for the release of the 28-year-old woman. Ms. Bauer was seized near her home outside Bologna on Nov. 2 and the family later received messages demanding a ransom of five billion lire (\$3 million). In negotiations kidnappers apparently agreed to accept 2.5 billion lire (\$1.5 million), the National News Agency ANSA reported. Mrs. Bauer's family firm "Casale Bauer" imports musical instruments.

15 die after village feast

DHAKA (R) — At least 15 people died and 200 fell sick Monday after attending a village feast in Bangladesh's northern district of Rangpur, newspaper reported. The papers said police and health officials were investigating.

Teacher kills 4, then himself

DE SOTO, Missouri (R) — A secondary school teacher killed his former wife, a fellow teacher, and his wife, a neighbor, and then himself, authorities said. Police Monday found the charred bodies of science teacher George Brandon, 43, and his former wife, Barbara Moore, 41, in Brandon's home near De Soto. The police said Brandon had left a note threatening other people who worked at his school in suburban St. Louis, about 65 kilometres northeast of here. The bodies of Brandon's fellow teacher Brian Metheny and his wife, Elizabeth, both 33, were found in their home in nearby Gerald. The body of Joe Lenneman, 51, was found later at his home near Brandon's. All three had been shot. Authorities said Metheny had recently criticised Brandon's work in a job evaluation. They added that Brandon and Lenneman had recently quarrelled over a dog.

Anti-drug campaigner attacked

KARACHI (R) — Police said they were investigating a complaint from an active anti-narcotics campaigner that drug den owners broke both his legs with axes. They said Hidayat Ullah, 35, told them four unidentified people stopped his motorcycle and attacked him in Karachi. Police said they believed drug den operators might have hired the attackers because of Hidayat's active involvement in a recent campaign against them.

Swastikas daubed on Tel Aviv building

TEL AVIV (R) — Swastikas were daubed on the municipality building in the Tel Aviv suburb of Petah Tikva overnight, apparently by orthodox Jews opposed to a new by-law allowing businesses to open on the Sabbath, mayor Dov Tavort said. "I'm simply serving the public," Mr. Tavort told state radio. "People should be free to choose how they spend their free time." Shops, cafes and cinemas close in nearly all Israeli towns except Tel Aviv and Haifa from Friday to Saturday evening, the conclusion of the Jewish Sabbath.

Over 70 million smokers in S. Union

MOSCOW (R) — Over 70 million people in the Soviet Union, roughly a third of the adult population, are regular smokers, and the signs are that the figure is increasing, according to late president Leonid Brezhnev's private surgeon. Recent surveys showed that 40 per cent of all 16-year-olds were regular smokers, Yevgeny Chazov, head of Moscow's Cardiological Centre, wrote in the monthly journal political self-education. Another problem was that 30 per cent of the population was overweight. Those facts showed Soviet citizens were doing too little to maintain and improve their own health. It explained why the rate of heart illnesses was accelerating and why life expectancy was no longer rising. Dr. Chazov wrote.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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TOO MANY WINNERS

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ Void
♠ 9732
♥ A643
♣ 87542

WEST EAST
♦ J108532 ♠ K9764
♥ K85 ♣ 64
♦ 97 ♠ 1085
♦ 93 ♠ K106

SOUTH
♦ AQ
♠ AQJ10
♥ KQJ2
♣ AQJ

The bidding:
South West North East
3NT Pass 4♦ Pass
4♦ Pass 5♦ Pass
6♦ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Jack of ♦.

Declarer took tricks whenever he could. Unfortunately, when it came to adding up the total, he had only 11 — one fewer than he had contracted for.

Once North established via the Stay